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From the Editor

Of volunteers and Web sites

While glancing at the title Page of *Meadowlark*, something occurred to me that many of you may not realize. The average amount of time a volunteer stays with an organization is less than one-year. But when I look at the title page every quarter to prepare for the next issue, most of the same names are on that page. What does that mean? It means the average time IOS volunteers stay with us is at least five years. That's a major statement about our organization.

Consider that David Athans, Brian Willis, and Denis Kania have been volunteering their time since our first issue to prepare illustrations for us, and that Joe Milosevich has kept sending us his great photos, and that Dave Johnson has kept writing stories and doing the Christmas Bird Count for six years! I could go on, but you get the point.

The only other organization I have volunteered for as long as the Illinois Ornithological Society is Ryerson Woods. This organization also keeps its volunteers much longer than the average. I've been there 10 years.

So what are both of these groups doing right? I think it's a combination of being committed to worthwhile goals, carrying out those goals, and constantly evaluating the organization to make sure it knows what it is and what it wants to be — and what its members want. That and repeating again and again how much the volunteers are appreciated. So thank you, again, volunteers, for all your work on *Meadowlark* and IOS.

A relatively new volunteer, Mary Hennen, has secured permission for IOS to have a Web Site connected to the prestigious Chicago Academy of Sciences Home Page. She'll be the IOS WebMistress, and Denis Bohm and I have volunteered to assist her, providing copy, photos, and drawings. By the time you read this, IOS will probably be on line, and much of that will be thanks to Mary.

Please know that we will not be printing any articles from *Meadowlark* — those belong to you, our paying members. What we hope the Web Site will do is gain more members for IOS and give our members a timely way to find out more about annual meetings, field trips, and other important Illinois birding information.

You'll find the IOS link on the Chicago Academy of Sciences home page at: <http://www.chias.org/>

See you on line.

Sheryl De Vore

MEADOWLARK

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President's Message

Did you know that you and I are members of a growth industry? Based upon recent surveys and other information I have been collecting, the hobby of bird-watching is increasing rapidly. *Forbes* magazine published a survey that reported Americans prefer bird-watching to golf! Other surveys have found that the popularity of birding has increased 155% in 10 years — faster than any other outdoor activities. Today some 24.7 million American are engaged in birding.

Birding and other wildlife-related recreation contributes to the economic well-being of the country. Birders spend \$5.2 billion on goods and services per year. Much of this information comes from the 1991 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Survey of Fish, Hunting and Wildlife-Related Recreation. This survey, conducted every 5 years, found that revenue generated from hunting, fishing, birding, and other wildlife-related recreation amounts to \$67.9 billion or about 1.3 percent of the nation's gross domestic product. In Illinois, watchable wildlife recreation contributes \$1.1 billion and generates some 14,000 full or part-time jobs.

Your participation in wildlife-related activities make an important contribution to the local, state, and nation's economy. We need to get this message out to the businesses we support and in turn build a broader support for conserving, protecting, and managing the habitat needed for the birds and the other wildlife we enjoy.

We can only do this if we work together. The Board and I are looking for your ideas and energy to accomplish this. Will you help us? Let me or another Board member know now, so we can begin this important work.

Until next time.

Bob Montgomery

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About Our Cover:

The Snowy Owl staged an invasion in Illinois the winter season of 1996/1997. See details in Christmas Bird Count and Field Notes this issue. Drawing by Walter Marcisz.

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First Band-tailed Pigeon

and its Status in Eastern North America

By H. David Bohlen

While conducting the Springfield Christmas Bird Count on 22 December 1996, Dennis Oehmke and I stopped to view a flock of Cedar Waxwings. We were along the west side of Lake Springfield at East Hazel Dell Lane. I looked into a deciduous tree above the waxwings and saw a large dove or pigeon with a distinct white collar on the nape. Thinking it might be a Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) I mentally noted other field marks. The pigeon was fairly high in the tree and at first the underparts looked dove-colored. Then the bird turned its head, giving me a profile. It was immediately obvious that this was not a Eurasian Collared Dove for I could see a red orbital ring and a bright yellow bill with a black tip. There was no doubt in my mind that the bird was a Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*).

We carefully slunk out of the truck, I with my scope, and Oehmke with his camera. For the next hour we viewed the Band-tailed Pigeon. Oehmke took numerous photographs. The bird was high enough and the light was so poor that the real colors, especially the purples were not coming through. It was not until the following day that I definitely saw the purple color. The pigeon sat for long periods making it easy to scope.

The bird showed purplish on its head, throat, and breast, becoming lighter ventrally. Below the nape's white crescent was an interesting

ruff of feathers forming a patch, which was metallic green-gray. The wing coverts were darker gray and the primaries charcoal. The lower back and rump were bluish-gray and the undertail coverts were light buff. The tail was mauve with a dark smudge, then a broad terminal band of gray-buff. The tarsi were bright yellow with black nails. At first, we thought the iris was brown, but in better light, it was an orangish color. Also the "eyelids" were light blue above and below the eye. That first day, I made a sketch in the field and wrote a description which I later revised due to much better views.

It was soon established that the Band-tailed Pigeon was attending a feeder in the yard of house #124 on Hazel Dell at LaRue Scott's. Mr. Scott and his neighbors graciously allowed observers to view the bird. Oehmke sat in a blind near the feeder for three hours one cold morning and obtained good photographs.

Birders easily viewed the pigeon perching in the deciduous trees near the house. At times it hid high up in coniferous trees or oaks retaining leaves. Once, an observer saw it eat dark berries off privet (*Ligustrum* sp.) Occasionally it flew giving the characteristic loud wing clapping. I never heard it call.

At least two different Cooper's Hawks frequently visited the area. This species preys on pigeon-sized birds, but whether this particular pi-

geon became prey or just moved is unknown. I saw the Band-tailed Pigeon 11 different days, and for the last time on 23 January 1997. This bird constitutes the first record for Illinois.

Sibley and Monroe give the range of the Band-tailed Pigeon as western North and Middle America from southwest British Columbia south through the mountains of Washington, Oregon, California, and extreme western Nevada to Baja California and from southern Nevada, Arizona, central Utah, north central Colorado, New Mexico, and western Texas south through the mountains of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and the Honduras to north central Nicaragua. This is quite an extensive range, however, another very similar form continues even farther, from Costa Rica to northwestern Argentina (White-necked Pigeon - *C. albilinea*). The 6th edition of the A.O.U. Checklist (1983) adds that the Band-tailed Pigeon winters at lower elevations than where it spends time during the breeding season. Also, the species is casual in Alaska, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota south to Wyoming, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The many reports from eastern North America may pertain largely or entirely to individuals escaped from captivity.

Most football fans know the term "go long," and some birds ap

parently do just that. Biogeographers refer to this phenomenon as long-distance dispersal. Root (1988) states that "in winter, Band-tailed Pigeons in the northern and eastern reaches of the breeding range migrate into the southwestern areas of the summer range." Where migration occurs there is always a certain small percentage of the population that goes off course or migrates the wrong way. Band-tailed Pigeons have also long been known to be nomadic as described in Bent (1932). "This was one of the wandering, restless flocks which travel about during the winter, moving from one place to another as food or fancy leads them." Several of the western regional editors of *American Birds* have noted movements out of the mountains. For example, in southern California, "As is apparently normal, a few Band-tailed Pigeons moved out of the mountains into the lowlands . . ." (McCaskie 1988). These pigeons are very strong, fast fliers able to travel long distances in a short time. This fall and winter (1996-97) many birds came out of the mountains of western North America, including Clark's

Nutcracker (see seasonal highlights in this issue), Pinyon Jay, and Pygmy Nuthatch. In midsummer, Red Crossbills invaded the Great Plains and farther east. Some of these wanderings could be induced by drought conditions in the western mountains.

With at least 49 Band-tailed Pigeon records for the states (eastern North America — see Table 1)) not considered in the range or in the casual range by the A.O.U., I suggest that most if not all are of wild origin and are legitimate vagrants. The first eastern record occurred in 1930; the species has also been recorded in the

east almost annually since the late 1960s. These include 20 for winter, 15 for fall, 8 for summer, and 6 for spring. Some observers believe these pigeons are tame (escapees) since they sit for long periods in one place. However, this is normal behavior, and I have noted this habit in the pigeon's usual range.

Apparently Band-tailed Pigeons are rare to non-existent in captivity. Paxton et. al. (1981) stated they knew of no captive population and Duncan (1991) thought the possibility inconsequentially small that these records would pertain to escaped captives.



*Band-tailed Pigeon,
First State Record,
Springfield, Sangamon
Co. 28 Dec. 1996.
Photos by Dennis
Oelmke.*

Table 1. Total Records for Band-tailed Pigeons for Eastern North America

<i>New Brunswick (1)</i>	Fredericton, Feb.1-March 17,1981 (Vickery 1981)
<i>Quebec (1)</i>	St. Andre Avellin, Nov. & Dec.,1996 (Rare Bird Alert Quebec)
<i>Nova Scotia (3)</i>	Seal Island, Sept.23-Oct.19,1974 (Tufts 1986) Colchester County, Dec.1,1981 (Tufts 1986) Yarmouth County, Dec.12-Jan.14, 1995-96 (McLaren 1996)
<i>Ontario (7)</i>	Rondeau Park, Sept.,1930 (James et al 1976) Port Hope, Oct.8,1970 (Goodwin and Rosche 1971) Pickering, Oct.,1973 (James et al 1976) Dorion, Oct. 12-27,1978 (Goodwin). ~The observer was A. Wormington, and there is a photo documentation. Wabigoon, Oct.26-Nov.5,1988 (Weir 1989) Dillon, Sept.16-17,1994 (Ridout 1995) Kenora, April 25,1995 (Ontario Birds 14 #2)
<i>Minnesota (5)</i>	Morris, July,1969 (Green & Jansen 1975) Sand Dunes St. For., June 12,1971 (Green & Jansen 1975) Stearns County, June 23,1975 (T. Hertz, pers. com.) Hawk Ridge, Sept.18,1982 (Tessen 1983) Itasca County, Sept.1996 (T. Hertz, pers. com.)
<i>Iowa (1)</i>	Webster County, summer to late Sept.,1970 (Dinsmore et al 1984)
<i>Missouri (2)</i>	Marshall, late Nov.-Feb.20,1983-84 (Robbins and Easterla 1992) Kansas City, March 29-April 20,1985 (Robbins and Easterla 1992)
<i>Louisiana (5)</i>	near Napoleonville, Jan.21,1954 (Lowery 1954) Baton Rouge, May 7,1964 (D. Dittman, pers. com.) near Lake Pontchartrain, Dec.16,1969 (James 1970) Pilottown, Dec.5, 1981 (Ortego 1982) Many, Dec.21- Feb.21,1981-82 (Ortego 1982)
<i>Michigan (1)</i>	Niles, Dec.24-Jan.22,1967-68 (Payne 1983)
<i>Indiana (1)</i>	Beverly Shores, Jan.10-31,1981 (Mumford and Keller 1984)
<i>Illinois (1)</i>	Springfield, Dec.22-Jan.23,1996-97
<i>Kentucky (1)</i>	Eddyville, Nov.30-Dec.1,1973 (Monroe 1994)
<i>Tennessee (1)</i>	Nashville, April 9,1974 (Imhof 1974)
<i>Mississippi (1)</i>	Petit Bois Island, Dec.2,1978 (Hamilton 1979)
<i>Alabama (1)</i>	Dauphin Island, Oct.23,1971 (Purrlington 1972)
<i>Maine (3)</i>	Southport Island, April 25-May 2,1980 (Vickery 1980) Monhegan Island, Sept.19,1990 (Duncan 1991) Monhegan, Sept.25,1994 (Ellison and Martin 1995)
<i>New Hampshire (2)</i>	Keene, Jan.3-15,1972 (Finch 1972) Conway, March 6-24,1991 (Perkins 1991)
<i>Massachusetts (2)</i>	Brookline, May 29-June 4,1995 (Petersen 1995) Nantucket Island, June 22-25,1996 (Petersen 1996)
<i>Connecticut (2)</i>	East Haven, Nov.7,1982 (Zeranski and Baptist 1990) Portland, Dec.-March, 1984-85 (Zeranski and Baptist 1990)
<i>Pennsylvania (1)</i>	Presque Isle State Park, Dec.11,1991 (Hall 1992)
<i>New Jersey (1)</i>	Rattlesnake Mt., Sept.17,1980 (Paxton et. al. 1981)
<i>North Carolina (2)</i>	Haywood County, June 10,1980 (Evans 1980) Charlotte, Feb.-March,1994 (Davis 1994)
<i>South Carolina (1)</i>	Georgetown, Aug.16,1991 (Pulliam 1996)
<i>Florida (3)</i>	near Bonifay, Dec.18,1967 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992) Two, Sarasota, Dec.17-30,1967 (Stevenson 1968) Sugarloaf Key, Sept.25-27,1973 (Edscorn 1974)

* A few of these records have yet to be accepted by records committees.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Beckie Dyer for help in getting records and typing many drafts, as well as several persons who provided records over the Internet.

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Boreal Owl in Rockford:

First State Record Since 1914

By Roy Morris

On Sunday morning, 9 February 1997, fellow birder, Marian Doyle, called me with the incredible news that a Boreal Owl (*Asio funderus*) was in her Rockford, Illinois backyard. She said the bird had hit a window of her home and was flying into some evergreens in her yard's back corner. She and a friend, Dolores Jensen, were sure it was a Boreal Owl.

Doyle, an experienced birder, calmly described this astounding event — a Boreal Owl as a yard bird in Illinois. I, on the other hand, was dumbfounded. Only four days earlier, four of us local listers had driven 340 miles to Minneapolis to see a Boreal Owl that was wintering at the Springbrook Nature Center. It was a life bird for three of us and a lower 48 bird for the fourth. My preliminary research before taking the Minneapolis trip prepared me well for confirming Doyle's identification.

I reached her house in a record 10 minutes, and met her in the backyard of this older residential area in the heart of Rockford. The owl was perched in a scraggly upright yew about 5 feet above the ground and was clearly visible from the north. We restricted our approach to about 25 feet to avoid alarming the bird. It



Boreal Owl, First State Record in 89 years. Belvidere, IL, Rockford Co. 9 Feb. 1997. Photo by Marjory Rand.

did not appear to be injured and remained on this perch facing us, allowing extended study with binoculars and a spotting scope.

The 10- to 11-inch long stubby owl had a broad, rounded head and no ear tufts. The grayish-brown head had numerous uniformly distributed small white spots on the forehead. Its face was outlined distinctly with a black rim and black eyebrow enclosing prominent white cheeks. The bill was uniformly ivory and the eyes were yellow. Its whitish breast had numerous broad chocolate brown streaks. The back was brown black. The underside of a broad, stubby tail was mottled brown and whitish with no banding.

It was an adult Boreal Owl!

My immediate concern was to get positive documentation. Calls were made to several local birders with experience in photographing birds, and photos were obtained. Doyle was concerned that the owl had been injured or stressed and wanted to minimize disturbance, but our local telephone tree hot line was used to notify other birders. Over 20 people observed the owl on Sunday. It was gone the following morning never to be

found again.

Only five documented records exist for Boreal Owl in Illinois, the most recent in 1914 in Chicago (Bohlen 1989). Surprisingly, the first documented Illinois Boreal Owl was in 1884 when an owl hit a store window in Rockford.

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— Roy Morris
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The Illinois 1996 Christmas Bird Count

By David B. Johnson and Alan F. Stokie

We dedicate this report to Pete Petersen, who died this summer after a long bout with cancer. By the end of the 1996 Christmas Bird Count season Pete had completed 242 CBCs and compiled 179! His untiring CBC efforts have long been appreciated by Illinois birders. We will miss him greatly and will long remember him for his dedication and commitment to birding in our state as well as his home state of Iowa.



Three Turkey Vultures were recorded on the Fermi-Lab Christmas Bird Count. Drawing by Denis Kania.

Illinois birders marching through their appointed territories within 59 count circles encountered many avian surprises such as high numbers of unusual geese, an irruption of Snowy Owls, and several new species records during the 1996 Christmas Bird Count Season.

As in the 1995 CBC season, early cold fronts pushed many water and land birds out of the state. Temperatures on count days were normal and snow cover was minimal. Most of the count circles had frozen water. The mean low temperature was about 30 degrees F; the mean high was 39 degrees F.

The hoped-for dispersal of montane species from the west into Illinois did occur but was only detected by 59 Red Crossbills in 2 count circles and an ultra rare vagrant and first state record for **Band-tailed Pigeon**.

Of course, there were additional sprinklings of rarities, unusual high and low counts as observers hiked, drove, and canoed over territories in search of more data on early winter bird distribution in Illinois.

Results included 149 species plus 3 exotics: Chukar (in Iowa), Monk Parakeet, and Ringed Turtle-Dove or Collared-Dove. No count recorded 100 or more species; only

two counts recorded 90 or more. Union County tallied the highest, 93, while Horseshoe Lake came in second with 92 species. Only 6 counts recorded 80 or more species. Springfield's 84 species was an impressive total for central Illinois. Waukegan recorded the most species in northern Illinois with 76. Rend Lake had the highest number of individuals: 1,101,770. Fermilab—Batavia for the third consecutive year fielded the most observers in the state, 74.

CBC Firsts and Rarities

We welcome a new count from Baldwin Lake—Kaskaskia River Valley in southern Illinois.

Four new Illinois CBC firsts were recorded. The most remarkable find was Springfield's **Band-tailed Pigeon** recorded on count day near Lake Springfield's western shore. This was not only a CBC first, but a state first as well. A close second goes to the **Brewer's Sparrow** at Chicago Lakefront, a state-first wintering and CBC record. Also new to the CBC species list were two **Clay-colored Sparrows** at Chicago Urban; these birds also successfully wintered.

Certainly out of season and also most remarkable was the fairly well described **Neotropic Cormorant** at Horseshoe Lake. A Townsend's Solitaire was noted at Kishwaukee (for the second year in a row!) and a Varied Thrush was at Waukegan.

Evanston and Fermilab-Batavia had their first Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Calumet City-Sand Ridge and Chillicothe recorded the only Great Black-backed Gulls. Peoria and Muscatine, Iowa had the only Iceland Gulls.

Water Birds

Waterfowl numbers were low due to the freeze out. One Common Loon was reported at Rend Lake.

Pied-billed Grebe numbers seemed above average, 171 in 16 count circles, including impressive counts of 47 individuals at Crab Orchard NWR and 44 at Springfield. Only 3 Horned Grebes in 3 count circles were recorded. Forty-nine Tundra Swans were recorded in 5 count circles, 5

birds were in southern Illinois. A count week Harlequin Duck was in the surf off Lake Michigan at Evanston. The Mallard X Wood Duck male type hybrid certainly was a bizarre find on the Chicago Urban count. Three American White Pelicans were at Pere Marquette.



Waukegan had 2 Virginia Rails. The only woodcocks were at Schapville and Union County.

Raptors

The 4 well-documented occurrences of Turkey Vultures in northern Illinois were unusual (3 at Fermilab-Batavia and one at Joliet) as were the 26 Turkey Vultures at Middle Fork River Valley in central Illinois. Bald Eagle numbers seem to be leveling at record numbers (see histogram). Four Golden Eagles were recorded in southern Illinois on 3 counts, Crane Lake, Cypress Creek, and Union (2 birds). Ninety-four Rough-legged Hawks were noted in 36 count circles. The only Merlins were singles at Rockford and Meredosia Island and a count-week bird at Kishwaukee.

Barrington had the highest count of 10 Long-eared Owls. Cypress Creek recorded 13 Short-eared Owls and Fermilab Batavia was close behind with 12. Only 3 Northern Saw-whet Owls were recorded, all in central Illinois, Middle Fork River Valley, Forest Glen Preserve, and Western Mercer. See irruptive species below for an account of Snowy Owls.

Passerines

House Finch numbers continue to rise (see histogram). The Eurasian Tree Sparrow movement up the western Illinois river valleys was best noted by Western Mercer's count circle/record of 91 birds. Meredosia Island's 581 was also a remarkable number.

A conspicuous miss this year was the Gray Partridge. Compilers also noted a decline in Ring-necked Pheasant numbers.

Three well-described Marsh Wrens were recorded, singles at Calumet City—Sand Ridge, Rockford, and Middle Fork River Valley. The only House Wrens were at Springfield and Clinton Lake. Two Eastern Phoebe

were recorded, surprisingly both in northern Illinois at Calumet City—Sand Ridge and Fermilab—Batavia. Twenty-three American Pipits were at Horseshoe Lake. Decatur recorded the only Gray Catbird. Single Spotted Towhees were tallied at Barrington, Meredosia Island, and Union County. Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted, one in northern Illinois at Calumet City—Sand Ridge and the other at Rend Lake in southern Illinois. The only accepted Brewer's Blackbird was at Fermilab—Batavia. Immature Indigo Buntings were at Carlyle and Horseshoe Lake CBCs. The only Le Conte's Sparrows were at Cypress Creek and Horseshoe Lake. The only unusual warblers were two well-described Pines at Union and Warbluff Valley.

Irruptive Species

The best irruptive species was the Snowy Owl. Chicago lakefront recorded a near-record 7 individuals (8 is the state record—Calumet City—Sand Ridge, 1981 CBC). Sixteen Snowy Owls were recorded in the state (in 5 count circles). Illini, the only inland count to record this species, had 2 Snowies along a nuclear power plant dike. A remarkable southern Illinois Snowy Owl was recorded during count week at Carlyle Lake.

The expected irruption of Red Crossbills was noted on the Chautauqua NWR with 58 individuals in Mason State Forest. The only other count record of this species was a solitary bird at Rockford and two count-week birds at Meredosia Island. Northern Shrike numbers returned to normal after last year's invasion with 18 individuals (54 in 1995) in 10 count circles. Other winter finches were almost nil. Fifty-seven Pine Siskins were reported in 14 count circles and 7 Common Redpolls were reported in 4 count circles. No Evening Grosbeaks were counted. After two good-number years, the

Red-breasted Nuthatch was recorded at a 10-year low (see histogram).

High Counts

Observers set 10 new all-time state high counts of individuals recorded within a count circle. All-time high state counts included 162 Great Blue Herons at Rend Lake and 244 Mute Swans at Calumet City—Sand Ridge. Burgeoning unusual geese numbers included an all-time high count for 3 species: 600 Greater White-fronted Geese at Cypress Creek, 53,394 Snow Geese at Pere Marquette, and an amazing 16 Ross's Geese at Union County (13 at Horseshoe Lake). The 3 Ross's Geese at Fermilab-Batavia and 1 at Bloomington were first CBC records for northern and central Illinois. The 36 Bald Eagles at Peoria were a new count high as were the 24 at Starved Rock. Middle Fork River Valley's 255,000 American Crows at a Danville roost site defies imagination. Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds" has reached Illinois! This crow count was measured and re-measured both on count day and several weeks after. Horseshoe Lake recorded a record 312 Carolina Wrens and 1,498 White-throated Sparrows. Although not a record high count, Chicago Urban birders recorded a remarkable 46 White-throated Sparrows in downtown Chicago—singing among the skyscrapers at dawn. One-hundred-eleven Ringed Turtle-Doves was a new record at Joliet. Carlyle Lake recorded an impressive state-high 1,370 American Goldfinches.

Identification Problems

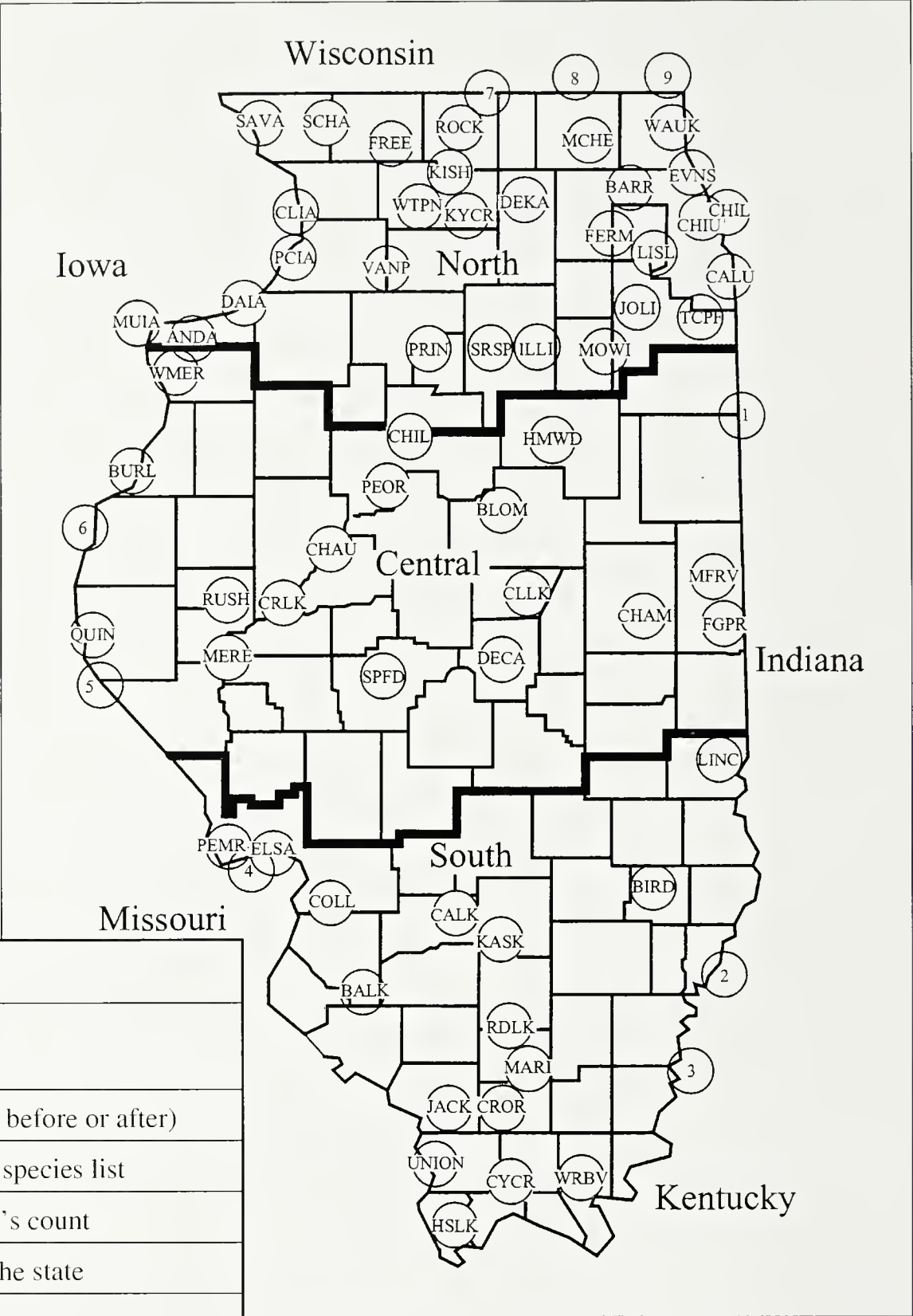
Lincoln's Sparrows and Brewer's Blackbirds continue to present difficult field identification problems on CBCs. These species require meticulous descriptions and photographs to insure proper documentation. Several descriptions submitted this season of Lincoln's Sparrows

were more suggestive of immature Swamp Sparrows, which at a distance resemble Lincoln's Sparrow.

Illinois CBC rarities listed in this report have been reviewed and accepted by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee. In several instances, rare and out-of-season species were dropped from this report due to lack of convincing evidence.

— David B. Johnson
504 Crown Point Drive
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

— Alan F. Stoke
174 E. Kathleen Drive
Park Ridge, IL 60068



Key to Tables	
Code	Description—
cw	count week only (3 days before or after)
NC	New to the state's Count species list
nc	new species to that circle's count
HC	all-time High Count for the state
hc	high count for that circle
imm	immature
*	Documented species
ps	Present for sometime
ph	Photographed
rn	remarkable number
rr	remarkable record
ud	unconvincing details
vt	videotaped
boldface = species/number/item of note	

Illinois '96 Christmas • Bird Count: Table 1

Count Name	Map I.D.	Date	Time	Begin	End	Temp	Sky	Snow	Water	Wind	Wind	Wind	Field	Feeder	Parties	Party	Miles	Miles	Owling	Owling	Compiler	Area	
						Low	High			Direction	Low	High	Obsrv	Hours	Hours	Hours	on foot	by car	Hours	Miles	Hours	Acres	
Andalusia-Buttalo	ANDA	29-Dec	0530	1700	19	24	Cloudy	0.00	Prly Froz	S	5	10	6	0	0.00	4	26.00	8.00	36.00	238.00	0.00	Peter C. Petersen	
Barrington	BARR	23-Dec	0700	1630	36	38	Cldy, Foggy, Light rain	0.00	Prly Froz	S-SW	3	6	27	5	7.00	8-18	72.50	36.50	310.75	287.00	2.00	Duane Heaton	
Calumet City-Sand Ridge	CALU	28-Dec	0700	1630	32	39	Foggy, Cloudy	0.00	Prly Froz	Calm	0	0	42	6	13.50	20	96.00	26.50	310.00	241.00	0.50	P Strand, J. C., C. Marsh	
Chicago Lakefront	CHIL	25-Dec	0700	1500	5	10	Cloudy	1-2.00	Prly Froz	NW	14	14	11	0	0.00	2-4	16.00	3.00	24.00	19.00	0.00	Joel Greenberg	
Chicago Urban	CHIU	22-Dec	0400	1600	33	43	Prly Clear, Cloudy	0.00	Prly Froz	S	0	12	12	8	8.00	7-9	64.00	54.00	295.00	45.00	3.00	Jeffrey Sanders	
Clinton IA-Savanna Fulton	CLIA	23-Dec	0530	1730	32	37	Cloudy, light rain	0.00	Prly Froz	E, NW	6	15	6	0	0.00	4	36.00	6.00	424.00	7.00	3.00	Peter C. Petersen	
De Kalb	DEKA	22-Dec	0700	1630	31	39	Cloudy	0.00	Prly Froz	SE	5	10	18	0	0.00	6	46.50	30.00	305.00	46.00	0.00	Sieve Messenger	
Evansville North Shore	EVNS	28-Dec	0345	1700	35	40	Prly Cldy, Foggy	2.00	Prly Froz	S	3	8	51	26	26.00	22-25	130.00	113.00	358.50	274.25	6.25	David B. Johnson	
Fermi Lab-Batavia	FERM	21-Dec	0630	1645	22	37	Cloudy	0.00	Prly Froz	S-SW	10	20	74	2	10.00	9-24	155.00	120.50	581.00	459.00	5.50	Dennis Kania	
Freeport	FREE	30-Dec	0715	1630	12	26	Clear, Prtly Foggy	2.00	Prly Froz	S	0	2	7	3	6.00	3	23.50	2.50	302.00	2.00	3.50	Keith Blackmore	
Illini State Park	ILLI	21-Dec	0500	1700	23	42	Prty Cloudy	0.00	Prty Froz	S	5	20	13	3	4.00	5	39.75	13.00	323.50	17.50	3.25	Jim Hampson	
Joliet	JOLI	21-Dec	0700	1700	26	38	Cloudy	0.00	Prty Froz	SW	10	25	11	2	2.00	7	57.00	27.00	331.00	311.00	1.00	Jerry Olson	
Kishwaukee	KISH	28-Dec	0700	1700	34	36	Foggy	2-3.00	Prty Froz	Calm	0	0	33	7	14.00	14-15	94.00	45.75	625.25	40.25	4.00	Brad Grover	
Liste Arboretum	LISL	22-Dec	0430	1700	30	40	Cloudy, Foggy, Light rain	0-2.00	Prty Froz	S-SE	3	10	43	0	0.00	13	123.50	95.50	365.50	115.50	6.50	John Leonard	
McHenry County	MCHE	21-Dec	0700	1700	10	38	Cloudy	0-1.00	Prty Froz	W	10	20	36	4	7.00	17	70.20	32.00	448.00	37.00	2.25	David A. Frey	
Morris-Wilmington	MOWI	28-Dec	0700	1630	35	41	Foggy	0.00	Prty Froz	Calm	0	0	12	4	8.00	7	66.00	19.00	47.00	20.00	0.00	John Stefan	
Muscatine IA-IL City	MUIA	28-Dec	0500	1700	32	38	Foggy	0.00	Prty Froz	S	5	10	9	6	12.00	4	36.00	8.00	413.00	8.00	6.50	Peter C. Petersen	
Princeton-Bureau	PRIN	5-Jan	0545	1500	21	24	Cloudy	3.00	Prty Froz	NW	9	24	4	0	0.00	2	13.25	0.50	184.50	0.50	1.00	Sieven Shipp	
Princeton-Cordova	PCIA	30-Dec	0550	1600	13	29	Clear, Cloudy	0.00	Prty Froz	E	5	15	21	8	16.00	10	68.00	26.00	538.00	26.00	10.00	Peter C. Petersen	
Quad Cities	DAIA	22-Dec	0300	1700	33	38	Cloudy	0.00	Prty Open	E	5	15	21	8	16.00	10	68.00	26.00	538.00	26.00	10.00	Peter C. Petersen	
Rockford	ROCK	21-Dec	0700	1630	22	34	Cloudy	0.00	Prty Open	W	5	10	37	1	1.00	12-14	90.25	43.00	532.00	47.00	1.00	Dan Williams	
Savannah Army Depot	SAVA	18-Dec	0900	1245	-5	-5	Prty Cloudy	0.00	Frozen	SW	15	15	6	0	0.00	2	7.50	2.00	58.00	0.00	0.00	John Bergstrom	
Schuyler	SCHA	28-Dec	0730	1700	32	34	Foggy	6.00	Prty Froz	S-E	0	5	19	0	0.50	2	39.00	4.00	345.00	7.00	0.00	Terrence N. Ingram	
Starved Rock State Park	SRSP	29-Dec	0545	1700	27	33	Cloudy, light snow	0.00	Prty Froz	W	5	10	15	0	0.00	7	56.75	33.50	474.50	48.50	1.75	John McKee	
Thorn Creek-Park Forest	TCPF	29-Dec	0530	1710	28	35	Cloudy	0.00	Prty Froz	SW	0	5	31	11	15.50	13	79.22	49.50	29.72	354.50	2.50	Jim Kelly	
Van Patten	VANP	1-Jan	0600	1700	32	37	Cloudy, fog, light mist	0.00	Prty Froz	S	0	5	4	2	2.00	3	22.50	3.00	252.00	3.00	2.00	Peter C. Petersen	
Waukegan	WAUK	1-Jan	0530	1700	37	42	Foggy, light rain, Cldy	0-1.0	Prty Froz	W-SW	9	14	21	51	79.00	13-15	77.75	62.25	354.00	50.50	8.00	Joel Greenberg	
White Pines	WTPN	21-Dec	0800	1700	18	34	Prty Cldy	0.00	Prty Froz	NW	2	10	8	4	8.00	4	27.00	15.00	252.00	11.00	0.00	Jerry McCormick	
Bloomington-Normal	BLOM	28-Dec	0730	1700	36	45	Cloudy, foggy	0.00	Prty Froz	S	5	10	12	0	0.00	6	33.00	27.00	180.00	30.00	0.00	Dale Birkenholz	
Champaign County	CHAM	21-Dec	0600	1700	16	36	Cloudy, Partly Clear	0.01	Prty Froz	S	15	25	27	5	10.00	12	69.00	50.00	418.75	53.25	2.00	Helen M. Parker	
Chautauqua N.W.R.	CHAU	28-Dec	0648	1630	36	48	Foggy, Prty Clear	0.00	Prty Open	SW	0	5	19	1	0.50	6-8	54.25	26.50	364.25	28.25	0.00	Richard G. Bjorklund	
Chillicothe	CHIL	21-Dec	0700	1600	28	36	Prty Cloudy	0.00	Prty Froz	S	10	15	19	0	0.00	8	53.00	11.00	42.00	16.00	0.00	Richard Collins	
Clinton Lake	CLLK	20-Dec	0450	1710	8	25	Prty Cloudy	0.00	Prty Froz	NW, S	5	20	9	0	0.00	5	46.50	26.50	339.00	24.00	3.00	Myma Deaton	
Crane Lake-Sangamon	CRUK	21-Dec	0700	1700	24	44	Partly Cloudy	0.00	Prty Froz	SW	15	20	8	0	0.00	5	36.00	15.50	20.50	20.00	0.00	Robert Q. Randall	
Decatur	DECA	21-Dec	0515	1645	21	40	Cloudy	0.00	Prty Froz	S	15	25	14	12	16.00	8	43.50	29.50	14.00	309.00	1.50	Myma Deaton	
Forest Glen Preserve	FGPR	28-Dec	0600	1700	38	50	Cloudy, foggy	0.00	Prty Froz	SW	0	5	17	0	0.00	11	61.50	39.25	22.25	34.00	2.25	Marilyn F. Campbell	
Ilumiston Woods	HMWD	30-Dec	0630	1700	30	38	Foggy, light rain	0.00	Open	SW	0	5	23	8	10.00	5	30.00	20.00	14.00	25.00	0.00	Joe Jobst	
Meredosia Island	MERE	23-Dec	0700	1700	33	57	Cloudy, light rain	0.00	Prty Froz	S	0	10	5	0	0.00	3	25.00	4.50	228.00	7.00	0.00	Tony Ward	
Middle Fork River Valley	MFRV	1-Jan	0100	1700	35	49	Cloudy, foggy	0.00	Prty Froz	SW	0	10	19	3	3.00	10-13	73.50	53.50	20.00	61.00	6.00	Steven D. Bailey	
Peoria	PEOR	4-Jan	0700	1630	55	63	Cloudy, rain	0.00	Prty Froz	SW	10	20	22	0	0.00	8	71.00	20.00	51.00	22.00	0.00	L. H. Prince	
Quincy, IL-Marion Co.MO	QUIN	28-Dec	0700	1615	34	42	Foggy	0.00	Prty Froz	S	0	5	13	5	8.50	7	39.50	10.00	29.50	318.50	1.00	Ken Vail	
Rushville	RUSH	4-Jan	0700	1700	55	62	Cloudy	0.00	Prty Froz	SE	0	15	5	31	39.00	4	11.25	5.25	6.00	30.00	0.00	Harold E. Hedden	
Springfield	SPFD	22-Dec	0500	1700	36	52	Cloudy	0.00	Prty Froz	S	5	10	11	7	14.00	7	53.00	28.50	24.50	36.00	2.00	H. David Bohlen	
Western Mercer	WMER	27-Dec	0530	1700	19	32	Cloudy, light mist	0.00	Prty Froz	S	5	12	9	0	0.00	4	39.00	11.00	28.00	322.00	5.00	Peter C. Petersen	
Baldwin Lake/Kaskaskia	BALK	21-Dec	0442	1815	29	44	Prty clear, Cloudy	0.00	Prty Froz	SSW	15	25	8	2	4.00	4	40.66	21.98	243.80	11.50	2.87	Tim Dever	
Bird Haven Sanctuary-Olney	BIRD	21-Dec	0700	1700	24	27	Prty clear	6.00	Prty Froz	WNW	15	25	18	0	0.00	8	54.00	17.50	36.50	344.00	0.00	Frank E. Stormont	
Carlyle Lake	CALK	22-Dec	0642	1710	39	52	Cloudy	0.00	Prty Froz	S	25	25	6	0	0.00	4	39.00	26.00	335.00	31.00	3.00	Dan Kassebaum	
Collinsville	COLL	21-Dec	0745	1630	29	40	Cloudy	0.00	Prty Froz	S	17	30	9	0	0.00	5	43.2						

Illinois '96 Christmas • Northern Counts

Species	WAUK	EVNS	CHIU	CHIL	CALU	MCHE	BARR	FERM	LISL	TCPF	JOLJ	MOWI	DE KA	ILLI	ROCK	KISH	SRSP	FREE	TOTAL
Pied-billed Grebe					2						1	8					1		
Horned Grebe												1							
Double-crested Cormorant				1	6						1	16		1			1		
Great Blue Heron	1	7	5		2	5	5 hc	9	6	2	5	6		20	2	3	21		
Black-crowned Night-Heron		1	8		9*														18
Tundra Swan	38								6*										
Mute Swan	26	1		1	244 HC		4	2	4	2			1hc						
Greater White-fronted Goose	1						1	14			4	1	5	5	2	1			
Snow Goose																			
Ross's Goose								3* nc											
Canada Goose	11603	4828	1409 hc	1090	1386	7356	20869 hc	45591 hc	6123	827	7076	15433	994	13198	10083	6424 hc	2199	2	
Wood Duck	3		7		5			1		6	1		1hc	8	5	1		1	
Green-winged Teal		2	1						12		3		1hc						
American Black Duck	41	25	27		26	1	7	44	27	1	8	126		239	24	4	1		
Mallard	1524	2032	2031	48	2150	388	909	3492	1782	282	1132	51247	480	12180	2145	1267	290	106	
Mallard X Black Hybnd		1																	1
Mallard X Wood Duck			1								4			2					1
Northern Pintail			1		6														
Northern Shoveler		1	1		1			1			1								
Gadwall	18		11		4			1	32		42	92		6	2				
American Wigeon	4	3	6							1		3		5	1				
Canvasback	2										3	5		1					
Redhead	8				2							2							
Ring-necked Duck		1	8		1						3				1				
Greater Scaup	14	5		2	12														
Lesser Scaup	19		17	1	201	1	1		1		33	40		7	2				
scaup sp					659														
Harlequin Duck		cw																	1-cw
Oldsquaw	32	5																	
Surf Scoter		1																	
Common Goldeneye	203	696	102	118	208	1	50	66			64	316		187	3	6	58		
Bufflehead	99	6	1	6	7						7	1							
Hooded Merganser	23		3		9			3 hc			2	55		25		2			
Common Merganser	150	51	1	12	22	3	cw		6		35	1115		4029	1	2	500		
Red-breasted Merganser	58	109	1	24	27			1	5		2			1					
Ruddy Duck		1									2	1							
duck sp		6			12										4				
Turkey Vulture								3* nc			1*								
Bald Eagle	2				1			1	2			cw-1		5	4	4 hc	24 hc		
adults	1				1			1	1					2	2	1	14		
immatures	1							1	1			cw		3	2	3	10		
eagle sp															1				
Northern Harrier	2					4	1	18 hc	1	6	2	2		29	1	1	5	2	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	1			1	3	1	2	4	2	1	2		2	2	cw	3	1	
Cooper's Hawk	4	7	2	cw	1	4	7 hc	4	5	2	3		2	2	4	5	2	1	
Northern Goshawk							1*			1*						1*			
accipiter sp									1						2	1			
Red-shouldered Hawk		1																	
Red-tailed Hawk	42	42	7	2	27	50	62	95	56	48	30	39	24	19	99	48	41	48	
Rough-legged Hawk	3	5				2				5	1	2	2	5	4	cw	3	2	
American Kestrel	13	22	3		22	7	15	34	20	26	9	7	18	12	22	13	30	14	
Merlin															1*	cw*			
Peregrine Falcon	1		1		2*														
large falcon													1						1
hawk sp					1		1	1	1										
Ring-necked Pheasant	2				11	9	1	22	5	22	3	12	16	16	35	23	14	20	
Wild Turkey														9	31	7	2	8	

Illinois '96 Christmas • Northern Counts

Species	WAUK	EVNS	CHIU	CHIL	CALU	MCHE	BARR	FERM	LISL	TCPF	JOLI	MOWI	DE KA	ILLI	ROCK	KISH	SRSP	FREE	TOTAL
Northern Bobwhite																1	3		
Virginia Rail	2																		2
American Coot	3	1	1	1	64						9	338		1	1	1	3		
Killdeer																			
Common Snipe		1						1	1		1				3				
Bonaparte's Gull	2		15																
Ring-billed Gull	559	827	329	1035	1686	43	30	744 hc	543	109	205	278	13hc	1059	44	4	315		
Herring Gull	426	290	75	238	1442	36	12	1117 hc	34	11	20	20		5027	97		821		
Thayer's Gull	3	1	2	1															
Iceland Gull					1*														
Lesser Black-backed Gull		1* nc						1* nc											
Glaucous Gull	1							1						1					
Great Black-backed Gull					2*														
gull sp.		268		250	9		16	523	45						1				
Rock Dove	263	768	2200	902	1149	363	295	664	490	368	239	177	211	271	979	514	229	520	
Mourning Dove	688	456 hc	115	31	497	192	359	624 hc	185	504	241	282	141	202	446	814 hc	211	172	
Eastern Screech-Owl	7	10	8				2	3	22	3	4	1	2	1		5 hc	2	3	
Great Horned Owl	5	10	4		2	9	9	20	9	15	3	1	13hc	5	14	11	3	6	
Snowy Owl (invasion year)	3	1	3	7 hc, rn										2					
Barred Owl										1		1		2	11	5	1		
Long-eared Owl	1						10	1		3									
Short-eared Owl		2				4	2	12 hc						2	4				
Belted Kingfisher	5	10	4	1	3	5	2	9	7		5	6	2	5	1	7	4		
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	1		1	2		1	2		21	4	4			17	3	5	3	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	36	74 hc	13		16	26	15	56	85	34	13	30	18hc	14	63	64	37	8	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1					1		2					1			1			
Downy Woodpecker	95	213	80	6	62	83	59	182	196	70	37	99	75hc	30	166	161	90	28	
Hairy Woodpecker	24	64	23		6	7	6	16	43	7	4	7	2	5	29	36	16	6	
Northern Flicker	2	4	1		1	1	1	18	10	10	4	13	6	11	5	17	9	4	
Pileated Woodpecker															1				
Eastern Phoebe					1*			1* nc											
Horned Lark		2				8	2	19			11	36	35	77	120	120	20	137	
Blue Jay	63	87	15		175	36	36	69	158	201	38	62	63	58	154	177	56	46	
American Crow	633	1633	801	97	554	655	3536	1068	729	536	577	109	1934	167	2412	4071	352	298	
Black-capped Chickadee	396	628	189	19	204	270	286	546	671	195	92	163	153hc	79	359	372	203	38	
Tufted Titmouse		1	1		10			9	9	37	4	29	1	34	30	39	66	8	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8	3	1		1	12	1		1	7	8		1		4	1			
White-breasted Nuthatch	57	76	18		30	46	20	61	124	54	23	27	40hc	14	121	121	51	16	
Brown Creeper	15	18	25		3	6	13	35	19	3	13	53	6	17	34	39	64		
Carolina Wren	1	3						2	2	2	2	11		3		1	5		
Winter Wren			3					3				1				4 hc	2		
Marsh Wren					1*				1*						1*				
wren sp.					1														1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	1			1	6	1	3	12	5		10			8	5	7		
Eastern Bluebird																		1	
Townsend's Solitaire																1*			1
Hermit Thrush			1					1											
American Robin	108	111	12			4	25	16	103	2	4		15hc			8	1	4	
Varied Thrush	1*ph																		1
Brown Thrasher								1											
Cedar Waxwing	138	59	10			21	116	137	179							83	1		
Northern Shrike	3	1				1	4 hc	4	1		1	1			1				

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Species	WAUK	EVNS	CHIU	CHIL	CALU	MCIE	BARR	FERM	LISL	TCPF	JOLI	MOWI	DEKA	ILLI	ROCK	KISII	SRSP	FREE	TOTAL
European Starling	1562	1330	1800	44	948	562	918	1806	1704	1677	1054	2000	918	1074	2982	1397	10730	1932	
Yellow-rumped Warbler		4	3				1	1	1	1						3			
Northern Cardinal	273	405	124	4	165	124	191	288	327	222	56	101	111hc	80	262	341	153	50	
Eastern Towhee		2	1												1				
Spotted Towhee							1*, ps, vt												
American Tree Sparrow	476	1072	36	7	493	406	308	804	637	762	181	209	170	200	732	747	367	664	
Clay-colored Sparrow			2* NC, ph, ps, rn																2
Brewer's Sparrow				1* NC, ph, ps, rr															1
Field Sparrow					5 hc														
Savannah Sparrow		1*					1*							1*					
Fox Sparrow		2	1				cw		2			1		1	1	cw			
Song Sparrow	36	275 hc	6	1	79	11	55	123	111	32	20	31	39	13	58	108 hc	34	10	
Swamp Sparrow	8	33 hc	7 hc	2	19	1	9	23	42	7	3		40hc	6	7	4	7		
White-throated Sparrow	4	31	65 hc	1	9	3	5	15	16	11	5	1	1	3	6	8	2		
White-crowned Sparrow	1	23 hc	1		4		11					2			4	3 hc			
Dark-eyed Junco	865	1201	358	29	744	576	879	1202	1118	628	572	376	536	267	1259	1021	574	405	
Oregon form		2													1	2			
sparrow sp.							8												
Lapland Longspur															25	62	2	3	
Snow Bunting			4							1				16	3	34			
Red-winged Blackbird	86	2	1		20		1	8	30	3	240	8	1	152	3		11839		
Eastern Meadowlark		9			1				4	4									
meadowlark sp.							2												
Yellow-headed Blackbird					1* ph														
Rusty Blackbird					2*				10		150			3			25		
Brewer's Blackbird								1*											1
Common Grackle	3	4	1		58		4		2	2	4	79		4			2472		
Brown-headed Cowbird	1		cw		40	2	1				2	33	3	169	3		2899		
blackbird sp.					6														
Purple Finch		5	2			1	1			8	cw	3		5		4	5	2	
House Finch	139	313	105		164	129	192	161	121	248	131	111	312hc	35	654	445	40	219	
Red Crossbill															1				
Common Redpoll	2															2			
Pine Siskin	3	2	15				1			12				1	1	2			
American Goldfinch	260	893 hc	172 hc	26	185	57	76	199	233	180	66	46	16	63	160	106	28	17	
House Sparrow	936	1921	2000	154	738	850	501	882	741	2017	438	264	600	518	1289	1468	795	1236	
exotics: [Monk Parakeet]	[3]			[12]	[20]														[35]
[Ringed-turtle Dove]									[2]		[111HC]	[63]							[176]
Total species	76	75	68	30	70	48	60	69	59	55	67	65	42	68	68	61	60	38	
Total individuals	22147	21015	12307	4172	14671	12390	29960	60893	16897	9246	12961	73558	7022	39711	25059	20254 hc	35744	6041	

Illinois '96 Christmas • North/Central Counts

SPECIES	WTPN	PRIN	VANP	Northern		SAVA	CL IA	PC IA	DA IA	ANDU	MU IA	MFRV	FGPR	CHAM	HMWD	BLOM	Central				CHIL	PEOR	CHAUTOTAL
																	CLLK	DECA					
Pied-billed Grebe												1					21 hc	2					4
Double-crested Cormorant									43 hc								1					1	
Great Blue Heron	2			1			1	1	11			10 hc	4		1		2	21			7		27
Mute Swan																						2	13
Greater White-fronted Goos												cw	6				10 hc						
Snow Goose														3		4							
Ross's Goose																1*							
Canada Goose	431	717	32				676	29	1407 hc	181	1060	1044	264	133	301	3100	1879	1396		676	1687		9552
Wood Duck							1		2			2 hc						4		2			3
Green-winged Teal									4			1					2	3			2		
American Black Duck		1	12				75		22	4	3	8				2	6	64		15	21		1175
Mallard	2	162	778				1362	131	3046	172	86	418	78	53	131	856	3125	2472		1960	466		30528
Northern Pintail							1		2			cw					1	1					1
Northern Shoveler																	1	5					
Gadwall									6			4					37	15		10	25		53
American Wigeon							1		2			2 hc					2	1					
Canvasback							1		3									1		1			
Redhead									1									1					2
Ring-necked Duck									3			1					5	1					141
Greater Scaup									2 hc														1
Lesser Scaup								6	1	1							12	29			1		17
Oldsquaw																	2	2					
Common Goldeneye	7	105					78	339		36	19	14 hc					510	59		181	320		191
Bufflehead																	1				15		12
Hooded Merganser									2								1	3					5
Common Merganser	1	40	51				254	694 hc	115		15	4 hc					9	2		350	165		153
Red-breasted Merganser								2															
merganser sp.													11										
Ruddy Duck																	1						
duck sp.												2	3	29									
Turkey Vulture												26 hc											
Bald Eagle	25				2	143	68	73	218	74	26									82	36 hc		73
adults	17				1	89	42	53	129	55	14						cw			53	26		43
immatures	8				1	46	16	20	89	19	9									19	10		30
unknown						8	10				3									10			
Northern Harrier			3	1			3	2				cw		1	9	2	1	cw					10
Sharp-shinned Hawk				1		1		3	4	1		1	5	1		1	2	1					
Cooper's Hawk	2					1	3	2	2	1	1	7	3	6		1	4	2		4	1		2
Northern Goshawk				1																		1*	5
Red-shouldered Hawk						1	1											1					
Red-tailed Hawk	29	21	8	43		14	29	20	47	25	23	19	28	26	23	10	20	14		51	44		45
Rough-legged Hawk	8		1	1		1	1	3	1	2		1		2	2		2	1		4	5		6
American Kestrel	16	4	1	9		1	15	12	44	10	11	8	17	21	11	13	21	16		33	27		14
Peregrine Falcon									1														
hawk sp.									2			1											3
Ring-necked Pheasant	8		9	4			9	13	3	3	3	7	12	37	21	64	14	18		2			11
Wild Turkey	7			85			2	75	8			2	5		2		1						1

Illinois '96 Christmas • North/Central Counts

SPECIES	WTPN	PRIN	VANP	Northern			Central																
				SCHA	SAVA	CLIA	PCIA	DAIA	ANDU	MU IA	MFRV	FGPR	CHAM	HMWD	BLOM	CLLK	DECA	CHIL	PEOR	CHAU	TOTAL		
Northern Bobwhite			2								1	19	12		6				2		1	30	
[Chukar (in 1A)]								[2] in 1A															[2]
American Coot			1									1			10			70	11			7	
Killdeer									1				1						1		4		5
Common Snipe				2				1	3	1	1							1			1		1
American Woodcock				1 dd																			
Bonaparte's Gull																						2	
Ring-billed Gull	1	689	1					44		149		2	68	6		20	218	52		280	4128	1014	
Herring Gull		410	22					359	89	701	32	17	4 hc				13	1		244	1184	141	
Thayer's Gull								1		2													
Iceland Gull												1*									1*		3
Glaucous Gull								1		1											1		6
Great Black-backed Gull																				1			3
gull sp.																					343		
Rock Dove	60	12	498		61		14	208	42	1610	532	74	89	182	696	79	66	18	84		47	387	14
Mourning Dove	66	17	83		227			256	179	677 hc	121	386	156	205	316	143	108	175	135		282	245	52
Eastern Screech-Owl			5					3	4	2	2	7	27	2	5	2	1	6	1		1		3
Great Horned Owl			7		4			17	9	18	4	13	17	7	8	3	4	2	2		2		6
Barred Owl	1		4					5	3	7	3	3	9	7	2	4	4	5	1			1	
Long-eared Owl										1			2	2	1	1	1	cw					
Short-eared Owl									1					1					cw				
Northern Saw-whet Owl													1	1									
Belted Kingfisher	1	3	3		3			3	6	8	2	5	11	6	7	3	1		3		8	4	10
Red-headed Woodpecker		1	2					4	9	19	5	3	30 hc	38	2	12	2	6	6		12	2	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	15	13	18		24		6	33	30	57	33	29	57	88	21	19	22	52	24	54	62	68	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker										1			1		3		3		cw	2	cw	1	
Downy Woodpecker	23	19	27		41		3	72	58	144	60	70	125	97	66	14	54	48	48	80	74	103	
Hairy Woodpecker	5	4	11		6		1	23	10	18	13	21	30	15	5	4	11	13	8	10	16	19	
Northern Flicker	5	13	7		1			7	4	10	4	4	25	17	6	6	3	58	14	49	3	28	
Pileated Woodpecker			1					4 hc	3	6	2	4	11	22	1				2	1	1	11	
Horned Lark	46	66	9		86			7	16	2	10	60	89	68	426	22	19	446	68	293	9	19	
Blue Jay	52	10	124		115		3	158	76	184	55	103	190	178	71	67	123	152	85	106	101	163	
American Crow	224	84	269		167		18	627	132	1139	178	91	55000 h	8687	320	88	1090	127	747	249	1629	433	
Black-capped Chickadee	59	42	46		64		8	159	83	390	117	175	1		8	60	142	105	95	169	237	150	
Carolina Chickadee													162	174	40								
Tufted Titmouse	11	11	5		12			24	23	81	40	45	153	196	25	19	33	28	52	78	70	55	
Red-breasted Nuthatch													2				1						
White-breasted Nuthatch	20	12	8		32		4	44	44	109	50	70	105	127	25	40	44	12	13	66	54	79	
Brown Creeper	4	2	12					12	9	41	14	5	48 hc	21	38		30	3	6	14	18	12	
Carolina Wren		2						5		4		4	17	44	21	2	2	16	8	6	20	22	
House Wren																		1*					
Winter Wren	1		1					3	1		cw	1	8 hc	1	2			3	2		1	1	
Marsh Wren													1*										
Golden-crowned Kinglet			2					7	11		3		2	17	3	4	1	4	1	4		10	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet													1						5				
Eastern Bluebird		3								1		1	21	27			4	4	5	1	3	6	
Hermit Thrush									1				1										

Illinois '96 Christmas • North/Central Counts

		Northern				Central																
		WTPN	PRIN	VANP	SCIA	SAVA	CLIA	PCIA	DAIA	ANDU	MUIA	MFRV	FGPR	CHAM	HMWD	BLOM	CLLK	DECA	CHIL	PEOR	CHAU	TOTAL
	American Robin	1			1		1	1	5			1		3	4	5	1		3	7	6	
	Gray Catbird																	1				1
	Northern Mockingbird															1	1	4	2		3	
14	Cedar Waxwing			8			73		26		4	34		17		7			27		37	
	Northern Shrike			1	1																	18
	Loggerhead Shrike								1													
405	European Starling		168	1241	287		935	803	2688	775	2647	953	1639	3113	183	472	1004	3437	1257	4459	638	
	Yellow-rumped Warbler											19 hc					1	8	1		2	
42	Northern Cardinal		38	149	144	10	219	151	395	134	266	167	153	417	38	121	185	156	180	174	217	
	Eastern Towhee											2									2	
142	American Tree Sparrow		89	405	877	82	471	429	925	342	740	540	124	398	48	545	611	152	283	107	530	
	Field Sparrow								2	2		15 hc	2	1	42		1					
	Savannah Sparrow													1			2	1				
	Fox Sparrow										1		2	1			1					
19	Song Sparrow		2	16	11	1	29	27	114	46	39	154	49	144	3	17	84	56	25	47	30	
10	Swamp Sparrow			2			4	4	32	1	1	64	14	11		3	20	18	6	1	7	
18	White-throated Sparrow		1	2	2		1	2	20	2	5	30	11	50		21	18	26	23	19	3	
4	White-crowned Sparrow		50				1	8			2	1	3	3				29			3	
185	Dark-eyed Junco		225	513	747	120	433	318	650	351	703	975	493	605	267	394	430 hc	200	534	548	553	
	Oregon form				2													1				
	sparrow sp.								10													
	Lapland Longspur			37			50	3			26	9	3	147		1	677		10			
	Snow Bunting			32	27		8	82										1				
	Red-winged Blackbird			1			2	55	457	1		1	2	1	7		43		2	200	2592	
	Eastern Meadowlark															1	49 hc		2			
	meadowlark sp.				2		5															
	Rusty Blackbird				1		1					3		6								
2	Common Grackle						5	3	50		2	cw		1	89	1		4	2	29	503	
	Brown-headed Cowbird		8		5		8	65	75			18	5	522	4	1	8	26	45	10		
	blackbird sp.				140																	
20	Purple Finch			2	1		7	4	17	3	19	3	4	6	79	1	2	5	3	1	17	
74	House Finch		111	44	69		120	330 hc	401 hc	20	185	94	73	419	41	108	12	47	29	97	3	
	Red Crossbill																				58	
	Common Redpoll													1*				2*				7
	Pine Siskin			2										1	6	2		1				
35	American Goldfinch		21	22	101		117	153	201	46	128	254	70	154	16	69	67	73	142	72	195	
151	House Sparrow		209	624	1437		850	1326	1840	1287	2269	559	381	2942	317	308	1183	866	1266	1289	539	
	Eurasian Tree Sparrow										45 hc										365	
41	Total Species		39	52	42	20	67	60	73	46	54	76	58	60	43	55	75	76	62	57	77	
2220	Total Individuals		3314	5269	4849	433	8008	6016	18296	4800	9525	261963	13713	11398	2246	7921	11679	10731	9289	18473	50813	

Illinois '96 Christmas • Central/South Counts

Species	Central					South										ELSA	TOTALS				
	CRLK	SPFD	RUSH	MERE	WMER	QUIN	LINC	BIRD	KASK	BALK	RDLK	JACK	CROR	CYCR	CALK			UNION	HSLK	COLL	WRBV
Common Loon											1										
Pied-billed Grebe		44 hc								2	24	7	47		cw	4			2	1	
Horned Grebe		1											1								
American White Pelican																					
Double-crested Cormorant		2						1			5				10		1			3	
Neotropic Cormorant																				1	
Great Blue Heron	30	4		8	18		2	4		27	162 HC	22	83	8	62	84	78	44	10	35	5
Tundra Swan	3*												1*			1					
Mute Swan		7						6										4			
Greater White-fronted Goose		1 nc															205 hc			7*	
Snow Goose		2								3085	500	542	64	15505	250	7000 hc	20000 hc	1	850	53394 HC	
Ross' Goose											3*					16 HC	13 rn				
Canada Goose	406	3650	367	150	91	511	497	302	820	763	4000	1140	25000	4308	52	19000	23000	1674	1455	2244	44
Wood Duck	4					3						2		2		9	25			2	
Green-winged Teal										8	2	24	1	2	1	26	25	8	21		
American Black Duck	356	13									85	35	35	50	94	53	71 hc	2	12	6	
Mallard	10255	2000		15	21	357		27		176	197	312	463	674	13532	4900	4600	960	1344	346	20
Northern Pintail		1									3	1		CW	cw	285	364	3	39	3	
Northern Shoveler	1	8										5	61	cw	14	75	25	42	25		
Gadwall	3	108			3					51	27	19	46	cw	4	351	70	15	354		
American Wigeon	1	13												2	cw	74	24	10	30		
Canvasback		2		2								19	5	cw	cw	60	9	9			
Redhead		1											6			3	1				
Ring-necked Duck		1								1	5	7	30	9		167	24			4	
Greater Scaup		2													cw						
Lesser Scaup		29						3			24	66	289	cw	8	17	6	20	1	41	
scaup sp.								1		60								15			
Oldsquaw		3													2						
White-winged Scoter													3								
Surf Scoter		1																			
Common Goldeneye		350								93	438		64	cw	29	9 hc	1	155	16	129	32
Bufflehead		11						2		14	19	6	71	cw	cw				10		
Hooded Merganser		17								2	7		305	cw	15	4			1	1	
Common Merganser	10	100			9	297 hc					23	2	5		29	1		40			
Red-breasted Merganser		cw										3	2		2						
merganser sp.																					
Ruddy Duck		5						1					14			24		10		53	
duck sp.								2										7			
Black Vulture																					
Turkey Vulture			3				43	1											30		
Bald Eagle	62			99	49	311 hc				4	3	9	33	6	3	43	73	2	35		
adults	36			62	39	134					2	4	10	5	3	27	40	1	4	129	20
immatures	26			37	9	173				3	1	5	22	1		15	30	1	1	143	17
unknown					1	4				1			1			1	3				1
Northern Harrier	14			3	2	1	2	4	1	4	3		1			20 hc	23	4	21	3	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1		2	1	1	2	2			2	1	3	2	4	5	2		2	2	
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	2	2	4		1	1				2	2	1	1	1	5	1	2		1
accipiter sp.								3											1	1	
Red-shouldered Hawk				1	2	2 hc					3	7		9		6	19	2	8		
Red-tailed Hawk	37	21	13	20	29	40	31	21	4	34	33	42	45	92	23	73	40	30	67	46	13
Rough-legged Hawk	3	2	1		3								1	5			1		2	1	

Illinois '96 Christmas • Central/South Counts

Species	Central										South										ELSA	TOTALS
	CR/LK	SPFD	RUSH	MERE	WMER	QUIN	LINC	BIRD	KASK	BALK	RDLK	JACK	CROR	CYCR	CALK	UNION	HSLK	COLL	WRBV	PEMR		
Golden Eagle	1 imm													1 ad	22	70 hc	54	32	58	17	7	4
American Kestrel	16	18	6	7	9	36	13	31	8	14	24	35	21	39								1128
Merlin	1 dd																					2
Peregrine Falcon		cw																				5
hawk sp								1										2	4			17
Ring-necked Pheasant	5	4			16						1											475
Wild Turkey	5		46		1	cw	4									154	1		46	5		372
Northern Bobwhite	29	12	14	13	23	4		11	3	25	16	4	43	60	12		22	15	9	38		430
American Coot		24						317		18	4	33	55	cw	13	1	1	51	1	3		1039
Killdeer	1							4			1	1	1	5		11	35	3		2		79
Common Snipe	2				2									3			1			1		27
American Woodcock																1						2
Bonaparte's Gull		100									3		1									123
Ring-billed Gull		868		615		145			4	338	2365	21	5745	67	5277	167	166	566	7	219	3325	34391
Herring Gull		25		4	4	1				6	56	245		6	17			1		7	6	13261
Thayer's Gull															1							11
Lesser Black-backed Gull		cw																				2
gull sp																						1515
Rock Dove	13	180	3	3	209	90	187	23		62	60	212	23	10	119	111	26	271	23	30	43	17073
Band-tailed Pigeon		1 NC																				1
Mourning Dove	141	508	19	79	140	205	325	361	57	48	177	183	75	572	53	324	554	194	208	132	25	10540
Eastern Screech-Owl		3		1	6					1	2	9		3	4	3	9		4			189
Great Horned Owl		9		1	23	3		2		2	2	7	4	3	5	4	19 hc	4	4			354
Snowy Owl															cw							16
Barred Owl	4	6		2	9	1		8	3	4	1	10	1	4	5	9	9	1	8	2		163
Long-eared Owl					1						3 hc								1			26
Short-eared Owl					1					1			1	13	1				1			46
Northern Saw-whet Owl																						3
Belted Kingfisher	5	10		1	6	7	2			1	5	13	2	2	3	12	18		6	5	4	264
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	11	13		10	9	27	21	4	6	19	34	16	76	16	54	43	5	7	11		640
Red-bellied Woodpecker	44	91	12	33	60	49	60	34	7	17	22	85	40	67	34	170	179	27	47	90	18	2513
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1		2						1		1		4		13	7		2	1	1	49
Downy Woodpecker	47	110	21	37	144	62	30	52	5	23	19	84 hc	29	78	35	207	276 hc	37	27	59	9	4349
Hairy Woodpecker	11	15		4	32	10	2	11	1	7	7	8	5	21	13	47	74 hc	3	11	14		840
Northern Flicker	17	51	8	2	6	14	11	19	2	10	23	43	31	60	8	142	248	19	66	25	2	1188
Red-shafted Flicker form																	1					1
Pileated Woodpecker	3	8		1	8	6	1	3		8	2	28	4	27		61	68 hc	4	26	19	4	350
Eastern Phoebe		cw																				2
Horned Lark	42	7	3	6	12	21	1329	427		45	169	42	19	143	61	84	339	26	15	26		5164
Blue Jay	41	245	41	43	144	126	118	246	31	20	147	182	261	158	103	176	158	47	84	41	48	6070
American Crow	545	770	112	3721	4177	120	422	190	20	86	169	196	236	171	111	280 hc	114	1136	485	222	48	304792
Black-capped Chickadee	82	222	64	66	177	80		37										42		111	64	7918
Carolina Chickadee							55	153	16	55	84	354	69	201	94	268	452	14	104			2295
Tufted Titmouse	53	139	51	38	65	37	76	126	14	51	64	291	69	168	60	215	306	26	123	94	85	3389
Red-breasted Nuthatch			2	1			1	3				2	2	2		2	3	1	2	1		70
White-breasted Nuthatch	44	62	27	20	110	41	26	48	3	21	14	82	10	63	19	146	122	8	40	57	12	2832
Brown Creeper	13	31		8	35	1	1	7		1	9	4	2	4	13	46	38	9	10	6	1	891
Carolina Wren	15	61 hc	3	27	5	14	5	23		20	13	58 hc	27	33	20	178	312 hc	16	46	32	8	1119
House Wren		1																				2
Winter Wren								1			1	2	1	5		27	29	1	5	3		113

Illinois '95 Christmas • Central/South Counts

Species	Central										South										ELSA	TOTALS
	CRLK	SPFD	RUSH	MERE	WMER	QUIN	LINC	BIRD	KASK	BALK	RDLK	JACK	CROR	CYCR	CALK	UNION	HSLK	COLL	WRBV	PEMR		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	11	6		1	4		2	1		1	28	38	17	36	20	60	45	2	60	5	468	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				1				1						5		18	22	2			55	
Eastern Bluebird	5	2	3	6	1	5	6	26	4	9	30	92	65	75	4	154	192 hc	8	238	24	1026	
Hermit Thrush														3		3	3		6		19	
American Robin	7	14	1	1		4	1	5	9	4	5	41	4	3	6	55	47	10	56	6	732	
Northern Mockingbird	1	10		4		2		18	2	10	5	36	17	36	2	13	31	7	28	8	241	
Brown Thrasher								1			1		5	2			2		1		13	
American Pipit																	23*				23	
Cedar Waxwing		25	2	16						15			1125	7	15	19		13	15	15	2258	
Loggerhead Shrike					1	1		5		1	2	5	1	10	5	1	7		7	1	48	
European Starling	1028	1216	115	423	1376	697	2105	2287	288	1594	41832	2289	1040	4255	2031	677	881	2041	1931	1698	816	132162
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6			1								9		17	3	66	66		13		226	
Pine Warbler																1*			1*		2	
Northern Cardinal	218	241	109	112	326	161	269	314	44	106	184	486	231	516	233	551	777	127	290	209	95	12232
Indigo Bunting															1*		1*				2	
Eastern Towhee							1	1			3	5	10	6	cw	5	25		8		72	
Spotted Towhee				1												1 nc					3	
American Tree Sparrow	467	191	18	84	1512	143	100	39	2	29	66	28	39	247	106	120	42	27	10	89		19490
Field Sparrow	1	2					15	30			3	12	7	14	9	44	111		93		411	
Savannah Sparrow								3			2	1		3		32 hc	46	4		1	99	
Le Conte's Sparrow														1			1				2	
Fox Sparrow			1				1			4	2	3	2	12	2	1	36	1	3		81	
Song Sparrow	44	42	1	76	95	38	54	15		32	98	204	42	306	96	372	503	41	84	121	4219	
Lincoln's Sparrow					1									2 ud							3	
Swamp Sparrow	5	2		10	21	2	5	2		5	56	36	1	53	16	285	156		6	24	1101	
White-throated Sparrow	13	23		17	2	8	3	11	3	91	84	331	76	228	19	740	1498 hc	38	123	165	3919	
White-crowned Sparrow		1	16	3	2	3	16	2		3	9	75	2	136	3	147 hc	36	1	58	30	696	
Dark-eyed Junco	588	351	60	177	1220	213	984	361	80	210	338	574	679	484	271	658	1152	114	700	345	31466	
Oregon Junco form																	1				9	
Lapland Longspur	47						1				6	7		38	47	71	540	2			1814	
Snow Bunting					1																209	
sparrow sp.										20											38	
Red-winged Blackbird	82	134		25	35					2612	42000	1612	18687	12212	401	900	10000	312	1070	11876	114363	
Eastern Meadowlark		1					3	29	7		26	30	81	385	4	94	316 hc	10	74	53	1184	
Western Meadowlark																	2				2	
meadowlark sp.										48											57	
Yellow-headed Blackbird											1*										2	
Rusty Blackbird		1	1					52		9	29		6	32		4	460	3			798	
blackbird sp.								3		1630			1675	10928		3	1	1100		82	15568	
Common Grackle	1	9	129	49	2			164		1822	1000000	4080	19509	21038	8	211	2500	273	2737	1450	2	1057308
Brown-headed Cowbird	10	7		4	56			48	2		7600	6	4234	1691	15	370	2500	44	327		20867	
Purple Finch		6	16		4		1	14				10		18	cw	7	8	1	6		321	
House Finch	6	86	32	2	48 hc	103	101	126		16	51	245	56	589	525	53	140	45	144	10	28	8202
Red Crossbill				cw-2																	59	
Pine Siskin								8													57	
American Goldfinch	323	203	215	44	140	145	135	67	2	137	63	302	60	132	1370 HC	382	565	49	25	123	41	9242
House Sparrow	374	989	373	244	1948	472	1041	940	106	139	195	251	49	163	857	170	313	214	67	691	250	46857
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	437	41	42	581	91 hc	31												25		312	4	1974
Total species	63	84	39	58	62	48	47	66	30	64	81	77	82	85	73	94	94	73	81	72	38	
Total individuals	16042	13597	1965	6919	12554	4633	8117	7107	1552	13763	1101770	15315	81209	77278	26332	41608	75440	10133	13993	75194	5167	

Summary of All-Time High Counts from Illinois Christmas Bird Counts

by David B. Johnson

The following updated counts were compared with Bohlen's (1977) and Robinson's (1990) previously published accounts of all-time high counts for species recorded on Illinois Christmas Bird Counts. Refer to Bohlen and Robinson for information on methodology. All species on this list have been recorded in Illinois. Any additions or deletions in the last 20 years have been approved by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee. Count names are the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count names. When necessary, the four-character abbreviations of the count names are those used in this journal.

Acknowledgments

I thank H. David Bohlen, Vernon M. Kleen, and Eric Walters for reviewing this list, and Douglas Robinson for his 1990 update. Any errors of omission are mine.

Literature Cited

- Bohlen, H. D. 1977. Summary of all-time high counts of Illinois Christmas Bird Counts. Illinois Audubon Bulletin 182:20-22.
- Robinson, W.D. 1990. Summary of all-time highest counts from Illinois Christmas Bird Counts. Illinois Birds and Birding 6:39-40.

—David B. Johnson, 504 Crown Point Drive, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Highest Number of individuals recorded within an Illinois Christmas Bird Count Circle

SPECIES	NUMBER	COUNT NAME	YEAR (19--)
Red-throated Loon	1	-----	51;56;91;93;94
Pacific Loon	1	Clinton Lake	92
Common Loon	10	Rend Lake	94
Yellow-billed Loon	1	Van Petten	86
Pied-billed Grebe	76	Union County	93
Western Grebe	1	Waukegan	94
Horned Grebe	21	Crab Orchard NWR	84
Red-necked Grebe	1	Springfield	75
Eared Grebe	1	CROR,BIRD,SPFD	53, 57; 81; 92
American White Pelican	20	Pere Marquette Park	93
Northern Gannet	1	Davenport, IA (but in IL)	93
Double-crested Cormorant	846	Rend Lake	94
Neotropic Cormorant	1	Horseshoe Lake	96
American Bittern	1	-----	35; 68; 74; 87
Great Blue Heron	162	Rend Lake	96
Great Egret	3	Joliet	94
Little Blue Heron	1	Collinsville	87
Cattle Egret	1	Crane Lake-Sangamon	93
Green Heron	1	-----	59; 72; 84; 85; 86
Black-crowned Night-Heron	22	Calumet City-Sand Ridge	90
Tundra Swan	44	Lisle Aboretum	94
[Trumpeter Swan]	[6]	Clinton Lake	94
Mute Swan	244	Calumet City-Sand Ridge	96
Greater White-fronted Goose	600	Cypress Creek	96
Snow Goose	53,394	Pere Marquette Park	96
Ross' Goose	16	Union County	96
Brant	1	Waukegan, Union County	82;92
Canada Goose	350,000	Horseshoe Lake	89
Wood Duck	613	Horseshoe Lake	86
Green-winged Teal	357	Pere Marquette Park	42
American Black Duck	20,000	Chautauqua NWR	43
Mallard	650,000	Chautauqua NWR	42; 45
Northern Pintail	10,075	E. St. Louis	55
Blue-winged Teal	103	Pere Marquette Park	39
Northern Shoveler	289	Cypress Creek	94
Gadwall	1071	Chautauqua NWR	94
Eurasian Wigeon	1	Clinton Lake	92
American Wigeon	500	Pere Marquette Park	66
Canvasback	569	Pere Marquette Park	67
Redhead	164	Waukegan	94
Ring-necked Duck	3,065	Rend Lake	93
Greater Scaup	2,815	Evanston North Shore	94
Lesser Scaup	4,250	Calumet City-Sand Ridge	71
King Eider	1	Morris-Wilmington	94
Harlequin Duck	3	Waukegan	76
Oldsquaw	17,669	Chicago	52
Black Scoter	3	Chicago	06
Surf Scoter	5	Evanston North Shore	69;94
White-winged Scoter	266	Evanston North Shore	70
Common Goldeneye	5,213	Waukegan	51
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	-----	57; 60; 65
Bufflehead	107	Calumet-Sand Ridge	94
Hooded Merganser	356	Crab Orchard NWR	57
Common Merganser	50,040	Morris-Wilmington	87
Red-breasted Merganser	2,798	Chicago	55

Highest Number of individuals recorded within an Illinois Christmas Bird Count Circle

SPECIES	NUMBER	COUNT NAME	YEAR (19--)	SPECIES	NUMBER	COUNT NAME	YEAR (19--)
Ruddy Duck	225	Chautauqua NWR	57	Great Black-backed Gull	4	Calumet City-Sand Ridge	81
Black Vulture	100	Cypress Creek	93	Mew Gull	1	Davenport, IA (but in IL)	93
Turkey Vulture	236	Cypress Creek	94	Black-legged Kittiwake	2	Waukegan	87
Osprey	2	Lake County	63	Ivory Gull	1	Chicago Urban	91
Bald Eagle	327	Pere Marquette Park	88	Rock Dove	9,000	Chicago Urban	83
Northern Harrier	73	Cypress Creek	94	Band-tailed Pigeon	1	Springfield	96
Sharp-shinned Hawk	13	Pere Marquette Park	50	Mourning Dove	1,438	Bird Haven Sanctuary-Olney	76
Cooper's Hawk	14	Fermilab--Batavia	95	Common Ground-Dove	1	Union County	81
Northern Goshawk	8	Barrington	73	Barn Owl	6	Cypress Creek	93
Red-shouldered Hawk	33	Horseshoe Lake	83	Eastern Screech-Owl	51	Evanston North Shore	87
Red-tailed Hawk	184	Schapville	94	Great Horned Owl	52	Beverly	84
Rough-legged Hawk	73	De Kalb	71	Snowy Owl	8	Calumet City-Sand Ridge	81
Ferruginous Hawk	1	Crane Lake-Sangamon	81	Barred Owl	35	Horseshoe Lake	87
Golden Eagle	4	Union County	73	Long-eared Owl	38	Rockford	61
American Kestrel	111	Cypress Creek	94	Short-eared Owl	19	Cypress Creek	94
Merlin	3	Pere Marquette Park	42	Northern Saw-whet Owl	3	Kishwaukee	95
Peregrine Falcon	4	Chicago Lakefront	95	Belted Kingfisher	28	Forest Glen Preserve	65
Prairie Falcon	1	-----	84; 85; 86; 87; 88; 92	Red-headed Woodpecker	738	Cypress Creek	94
Gray Partridge	41	Freeport	84	Red-bellied Woodpecker	351	Union County	83
Ring-necked Pheasant	619	Thorn Creek-Park Forest	74	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	77	Union County	76
Ruffed Grouse	4	Union County	86	Downy Woodpecker	374	Union County	83
Greater Prairie-Chicken	65	Bird Haven Sanctuary-Olney	53	Hairy Woodpecker	109	Cypress Creek	94
Wild Turkey	320	Schapville	94	Black-backed Woodpecker	2	Rockford	65
Northern Bobwhite	416	Chillicothe	74	Northern Flicker	291	Cypress Creek	94
King Rail	1	Chillicothe	67	Pileated Woodpecker	133	Union County	86
Virginia Rail	4	Waukegan	92	Least Flycatcher	1	Crane Lake-Sangamon	74
Sora	1	Rantoul; CROR; Joliet, WMER	12; 88; 89, 94	Eastern Phoebe	3	Horseshoe Lake	86
Common Moorhen	1	Waukegan; CALU	75; 86; 93; 94	Say's Phoebe	1	Mermet; Beverly	67; 79
American Coot	2,500	Union County	93	Horned Lark	5,000	Urbana	57
Sandhill Crane	70	McHenry	94	Tree Swallow	1	Joliet	84
Black-bellied Plover	1	Calumet City-Sand Ridge	74	Barn Swallow	2	Murphysboro	55
Killdeer	467	Horseshoe Lake	93	Blue Jay	1,158	Meredosia Island	85
Greater Yellowlegs	3	Rend Lake	94	Black-billed Magpie	1	Barrington	74
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	Rend Lake	94	American Crow	255,000	Middle Fork River Valley	96
Spotted Sandpiper	1	Bird Haven Sanctuary-Olney	92	Fish Crow	3	Horseshoe Lake	91
Sanderling	1	Calumet City-Sand Ridge	79	Black-capped Chickadee	1,061	Evanston North Shore	83
Least Sandpiper	16	Rend Lake	94	Carolina Chickadee	676	Union County	83
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	Chillicothe	80	Tufted Titmouse	470	Horseshoe Lake	83
Purple Sandpiper	1	Waukegan	61	Red-breasted Nuthatch	188	Crab Orchard NWR	76
Dunlin	1	Pere Marquette Park; Waukegan	66; 88	White-breasted Nuthatch	245	Union County	83
Whimbrel	1	Morrison	47	Brown Creeper	110	Rockford	95
Common Snipe	65	Mermet	66	Rock Wren	1	Horseshoe Lake	75
American Woodcock	4	Peoria	70	Carolina Wren	312	Horseshoe Lake	96
Pomarine Jaeger	1	Crab Orchard NWR	83	Bewick's Wren	2	-----	03; 04; 06; 50; 51; 52; 56
Parasitic Jaeger	1	Chicago Lakefront	74	House Wren	4	Horseshoe Lake	85
Laughing Gull	1	Chautauqua; Springfield	81; 86; 87	Winter Wren	38	Union County	87
Franklin's Gull	9	Springfield	37	Sedge Wren	2	Pere Marquette Park, CROR	72; 87
Little Gull	4	Chicago Lakefront	80	Marsh Wren	2	E. St. Louis; HSLK, JOLI; SPFD	52; 83; 84
Bonaparte's Gull	1,000	Waukegan	42	Golden-crowned Kinglet	206	Evanston North Shore	74
Ring-billed Gull	20,000	Carlyle Lake	93	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	53	Crab Orchard NWR	76
Herring Gull	10,890	Peoria	79	Eastern Bluebird	199	Union County	94
Thayer's Gull	7	Waukegan	87, 94	Townsend's Solitaire	1	LISL, WAUK, KISH	59, 95, 96
Iceland Gull	1	-----	52; 56; 84; 85; 87; 88; 89	Swainson's Thrush	1	W. Mercer County, EVNS	65; 93
Lesser Black-backed Gull	3	Calumet City-Sand Ridge	91	Hermit Thrush	35	Horseshoe Lake	87
Glaucous Gull	10	Calumet City-Sand Ridge	93	Wood Thrush	1	Pere Marquette Park	76

Highest Number of individuals recorded within an Illinois Christmas Bird Count Circle

SPECIES	NUMBER	COUNT NAME	YEAR (19--)	SPECIES	NUMBER	COUNT NAME	YEAR (19--)
American Robin	1,970	Evanston North Shore	86	White-throated Sparrow	1,498	Horseshoe Lake	96
Varied Thrush	1	-----	51; 56; 57; 86; 89, 95, 96	White-crowned Sparrow	305	Horseshoe Lake	86
Gray Catbird	2	W. Mercer County	65	Golden-crowned Sparrow	1	Van Petten	88; 89
Northern Mockingbird	199	Crab Orchard NWR	72	Harris' Sparrow	6	W. Mercer County	64
Sage Thrasher	1	Evanston North Shore	70	Dark-eyed Junco	2737	Rockford	85
Brown Thrasher	31	Horseshoe Lake	84	Lapland Longspur	3115	Bloomington-Normal	68
Curve-billed Thrasher	1	Rend Lake	92	Snow Bunting	2133	De Kalb	84
American Pipit	55	Horseshoe Lake	95	Red-winged Blackbird	1,037,000	Rend Lake	93
Sprague's Pipit	2	Shelbyville Reservoir	69	Eastern Meadowlark	591	Bird Haven Sanctuary-Olney	76
Bohemian Waxwing	19	Moline	48	Western Meadowlark	80	Rockford	70
Cedar Waxwing	1,279	Middlefork River Valley	89	Yellow-headed Blackbird	2	Waukegan	90
Northern Shrike	8	Waukegan	95	Rusty Blackbird	5,000	Horseshoe Lake; CROR	75; 76
Loggerhead Shrike	48	Horseshoe Lake	83	Brewer's Blackbird	22	Waukegan	90
European Starling	900000	DeQuoin	64	Common Grackle	1,617,000	Rend Lake	93
White-eyed Vireo	2	Chicago Urban	83	Brown-headed Cowbird	310,800	Rend Lake	95
Northern Parula	1	Middlefork River Valley	92	Northern Oriole	1	Lisle Arboretum, EVNS	72; 76
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	Chicago Urban	80; 84	Pine Grosbeak	80	Lisle Arboretum	77
Nashville Warbler	2	Chicago Urban	83; 84	Purple Finch	276	Rockford	59
Yellow Warbler	1	Chicago Urban	84	House Finch	708	Union County	94
Magnolia Warbler	1	Joliet	82	Red Crossbill	66	Lisle Arboretum, Barrington	61; 73
Cape May Warbler	3	Chicago Urban	83	White-winged Crossbill	47	Lisle Arboretum	66
Yellow-rumped Warbler	355	Crab Orchard NWR	63	Common Redpoll	204	Morris-Wilmington	70
["Audubon's" Warbler]	1	Calumet City-Sand Ridge, CRLK	80; 92	Pine Siskin	598	Lisle Arboretum	72
Pine Warbler	5	Crab Orchard NWR	94	American Goldfinch	1370	Carlyle Lake	96
Palm Warbler	8	Chicago Urban	83	Evening Grosbeak	109	Rockford	81
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	Chicago Urban; Springfield	84; 88	House Sparrow	255000	Chicago Urban	74
Black-and-white Warbler	1	Horseshoe Lake, Springfield	75; 93	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	1490	Meredosia Island	86
American Redstart	1	Chicago Urban	84	<u>EXOTICS</u>			
Prothonotary Warbler	1	Chicago Urban	83	[Bar-headed Goose]	1	CROR; MFRV	62; 87
Ovenbird	1	Springfield	83	[Monk Parakeet]	27	Chicago Lakefront	94
Northern Waterthrush	1	SPFD; CHI U; CRLK	57; 76; 81	[Ringed Turtle-Dove or variant of African or Eurasian Collared-Dove]	111	Joliet	96
Common Yellowthroat	5	Union County	93				
Wilson's Warbler	1	Chicago Urban, Union County	83				
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	Shelbyville Reservoir	68				
Northern Cardinal	1,529	Horseshoe Lake	84				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	PEOR, EVNS, ROCK, LISL, EVNS	69; 76; 79; 84; 92				
Indigo Bunting	5	Union County	85				
Dickcissel	1	-----	66; 70; 73; 75; 76; 84				
Green-tailed Towhee	1	Union County	86				
Rufous-sided Towhee	84	Crab Orchard NWR	84				
Spotted Towhee	1	Morris--Wilmington, Horseshoe Lake	95				
American Tree Sparrow	4,599	Thorn Creek-Park Forest	83				
Chipping Sparrow	3	Calumet City-Sand Ridge	71				
Clay-colored Sparrow	2	Chicago Urban	96				
Brewer's Sparrow	1	Chicago Lakefront	96				
Field Sparrow	282	Horseshoe Lake	84				
Vesper Sparrow	6	Rockford, Joliet, HSLK	57; 81				
Savannah Sparrow	67	Horseshoe Lake	85				
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	Murphysboro	49				
Henslow's Sparrow	1	Murphysboro; W. Mercer Co.	51; 65				
LeConte's Sparrow	66	Rend Lake	77				
Fox Sparrow	72	Horseshoe Lake	84				
Song Sparrow	894	Union County	94				
Lincoln's Sparrow	6	Horseshoe Lake	83				
Swamp Sparrow	654	Union County	94				

Eagle Watching at Lake Chautauqua in Winter

By Thomas V. Lerczak

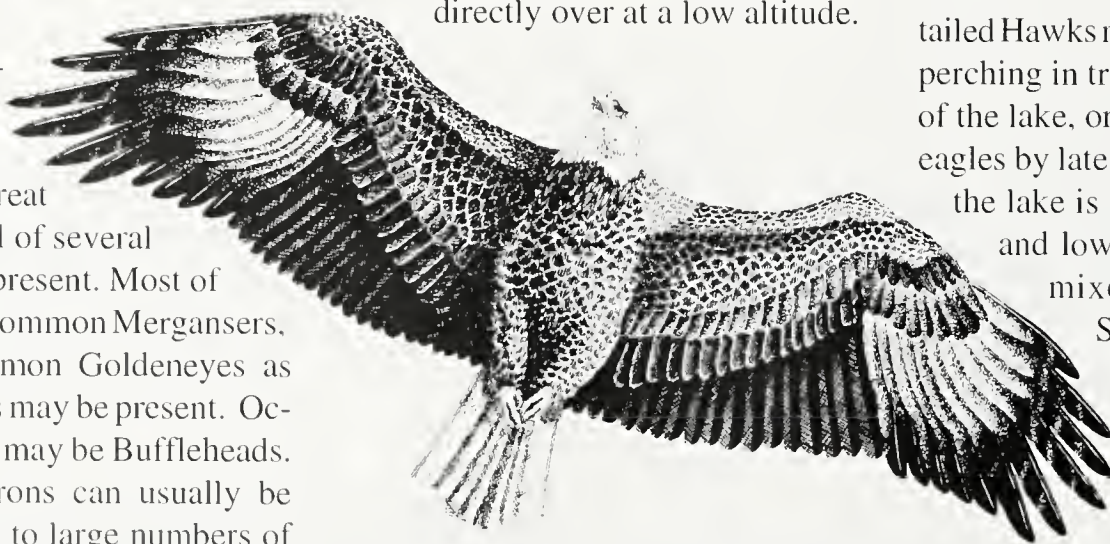
Lake Chautauqua, a backwater of the Illinois River Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge (4,488 acres, 40 miles southwest of Peoria, Illinois) attracts many bird species at all seasons. But in my opinion, it is the presence of overwintering Bald Eagles that makes winter the most interesting season for birding here. Bald Eagles are reliably present in varying numbers from late October through March, with numbers usually highest in January. Interactions among the eagles and other overwintering birds present exciting scenes that invite speculations on the motivations behind their behaviors and generate admiration for birds that can endure the sometimes extremely harsh weather conditions.

As long as there is an expanse of open water on Lake Chautauqua, a great many waterfowl of several species will be present. Most of them are often Common Mergansers, but many Common Goldeneyes as well as Mallards may be present. Occasionally there may be Buffleheads. Great Blue Herons can usually be seen in addition to large numbers of Ring-billed Gulls, which may be flying about picking small fish (mostly gizzard shad) from the water or standing in groups on the ice. A scan of the gull flocks usually yields a few Herring Gulls.

The mergansers find a ready source of food in the abundant gizzard shad that sometimes die in large numbers due to their low tolerance for very cold water. Bald Eagles are also heavily dependent upon these shad as a main food source, and can readily be seen flying over open waters in search of fish; many, however, simply stand on the ice or perch in trees, apparently watching the ducks for signs of sick or weak individuals; attacks by the eagles, though, are rare. The Mallards tend to stay in close-knit flocks either in the water or standing on the ice. If an eagle flies over the Mallards, the entire flock may take flight. Diving ducks, for example, mergansers, appear untroubled by the eagles, even if the eagles fly directly over at a low altitude.

Even though food may appear to be readily available, eagles can be observed stealing food from each other and from other species. Once, for example, I witnessed a large dead fish (probably a common carp or bigmouth buffalo) pass ownership among several different eagles over the course of an hour. Gulls, which also steal food from other gulls, normally maintain a respectable distance from the formidable eagles.

Other winter birds at the Chautauqua refuge include American Crows that fly about over the lake and along the river in search of whatever they can scavenge—most likely dead fish. In late fall and early winter, Northern Harriers patrol the lake back and forth in search of prey. Red-tailed Hawks may sometimes be found perching in trees along the perimeter of the lake, or soaring along with the eagles by late morning. Surrounding the lake is a narrow strip of forest and low shrubs that may yield mixed flocks of Swamp Sparrows, American and Eurasian Tree Sparrows, Song Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Juncos. In the forest the loosely aggregated winter foraging flocks moving among the trees in search of food may include Black-capped Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, Tufted Titmice, Downy, Hairy, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and if you wait



Adult Bald Eagle drawing by Brian K. Willis.

long enough, a Pileated Woodpecker. Soaring eagles are a common sight above the opposite river bluffs visible 3.5 miles distant, across the full expanse of the Illinois River Valley.

If Lake Chautauqua freezes, the ducks move to other areas in search of open water. Most of the eagles also move to other areas, but many may still be found perching in trees along the Illinois River. Even on the coldest subzero days, though, with the wind screaming off the lake, a few lone eagles may still be found standing on the ice, stoically enduring the full force of the wind and cold. It is a mystery why these individuals do not move on to areas of open water found on the Illinois River, which rarely freezes entirely for extended periods, or to the shelter of a daytime perching area with other eagles.

Because the lake may freeze and appear as bleak as any arctic landscape, the best time to visit Lake Chautauqua for eagles and overwintering ducks is probably

late December to early January, while there is still some open water. The easiest way to reach Lake Chautauqua is to travel to the town of Havana via U.S. Route 136, and follow the Manito Blacktop Road north from the town several miles to a sign indicating directions to the refuge headquarters. Then proceed north on County Road 1950E to the refuge

entrance gates. At the headquarters, maps and information on access to other parts of the refuge will be available in addition to a nature trail, viewing platforms, and permanently mounted spotting scopes.

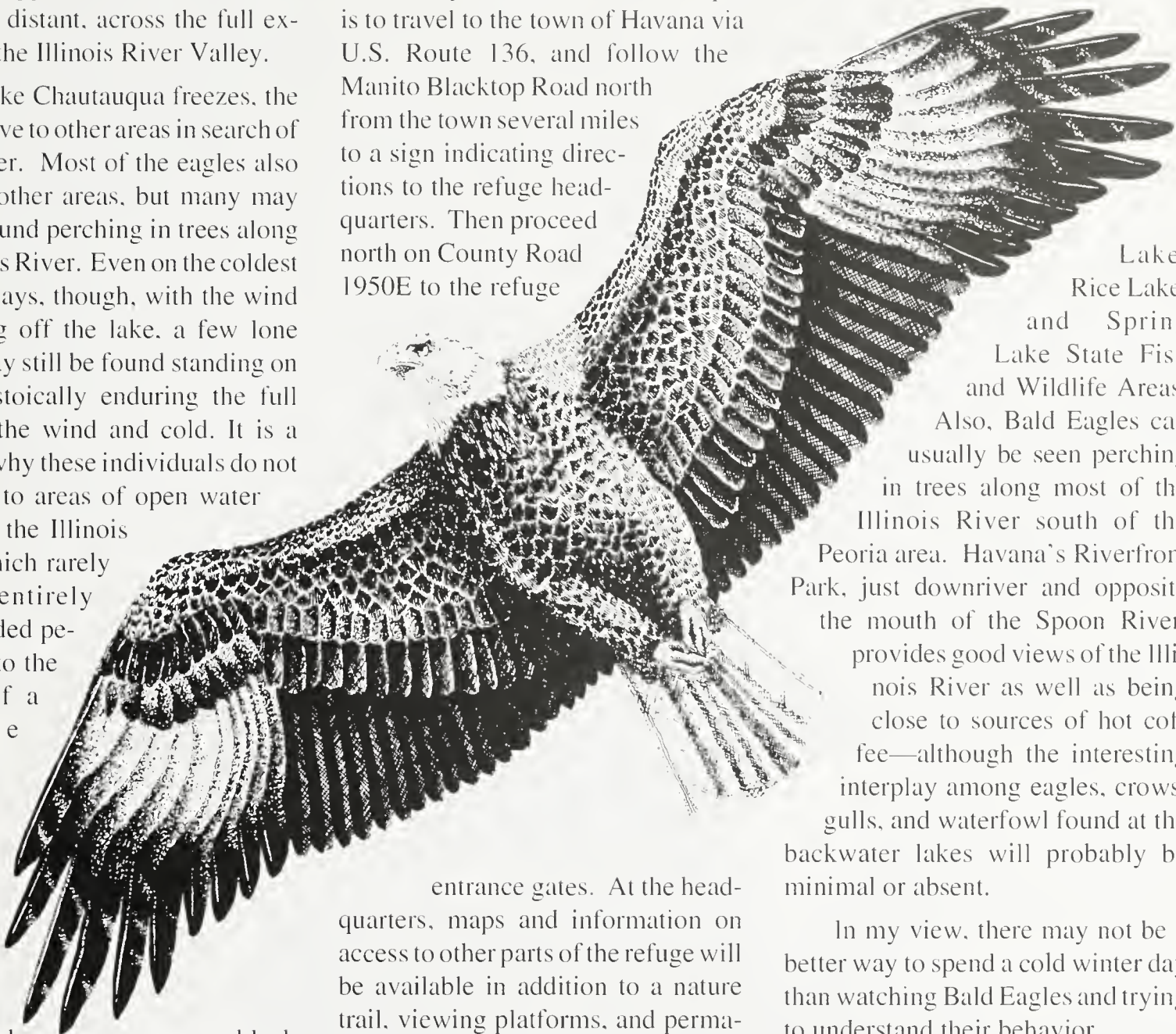
If Lake Chautauqua is frozen with few birds about, there are several other Illinois River backwater lakes nearby

which may have open water with waterfowl and eagles. These include Anderson

Lake, Rice Lake, and Spring Lake State Fish and Wildlife Areas. Also, Bald Eagles can usually be seen perching in trees along most of the Illinois River south of the Peoria area. Havana's Riverfront Park, just downriver and opposite the mouth of the Spoon River, provides good views of the Illinois River as well as being close to sources of hot coffee—although the interesting interplay among eagles, crows, gulls, and waterfowl found at the backwater lakes will probably be minimal or absent.

In my view, there may not be a better way to spend a cold winter day than watching Bald Eagles and trying to understand their behavior.

— Thomas V. Lerczak
18134 N. CR 1615E
Havana, IL 62644



Eagle Identification Key

- 1A Head and tail white, body dark go to 2.
- 1B Head and tail other than described above go to 3.
- 2A Head and tail pure white, body dark Adult.
- 2B Head and tail dirty white (some dark feathers present), body dark Transition. 4th year.
- 3A Head, body, and tail generally dark, very little white in feathers 1st year.
- 3B Head and body has some (or too much white), especially in belly area go to 4.
- 4A Head has brown hood, belly; wing coverts very white 2nd year.
- 4B Head and breast brown; some white on belly; wing coverts with a scattering of dark in white 3rd year.

Clark's Nutcracker in Western Illinois

A Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) was seen living, and later found dead, in Hancock County, western Illinois. It was first seen at the farm home of Britten and Martha Gray (9 miles east of Carthage Illinois, in section 22 of Hancock Township, Hancock County) on 27 December 1996 when Martha Gray rescued it from the jaws of a domestic cat. After the rescue, it hid under a parked truck, and then flew to a tree where it sat for about an hour. The area near the home includes some large white pine (*Pinus strobus*) plantations, swamp forest, upland forest, permanent pasture, and grain fields.

The bird was not seen again until it was found dead

and solidly frozen on 13 January 1997 at the same location on the lawn about 4 meters from the house, with no obvious injuries. The frozen bird was delivered to Ed and Evelyn Franks on 14 January 1997. It was later taken to the Department of Biological Sciences Bird Collection at Western Illinois University, Macomb, Curator Thomas Dunstan in turn sent it to the Illinois State Museum in Springfield as a more appropriate depository (specimen number 660433).

H. David Bohlen prepared the bird and confirmed that it was a female, with a mostly ossified skull. The specimen was in good condition, not noticeably dehydrated or



Clark's Nutcracker drawing by Brian K. Willis.

decayed. It exhibited one unusual deformity. The lower mandible protruded 6 mm beyond the tip of the upper mandible. A slight notch in the lower mandible, as if formed by abrasion from the tip of the upper mandible, indicated that the protrusion was a long-time condition.

The specimen weighed 155 grams (5.5 ounces), had a total length of 275 mm, and a tail length of 94 mm. The sex was female, as indicated by a wing chord of 178 mm, versus 180-202 mm for males (Pyle et al. 1987). The age at death was approximately 8 months (i.e., hatched in the spring of 1996), as indicated by the lesser secondary wing coverts being a distinctly glossier black than the middle coverts which were dull black with brown tips, and also as indicated by the difference in length between the innermost and outermost rectrices. These were only 9 mm, versus 15-35 mm for older birds (Pyle et al. 1987).

The normal range of this non-migratory species comes as close to Illinois as the west edge of Nebraska (Sauer et al. 1996). The species is prone to wandering in winter (Bent 1946). There are acceptable records from Iowa and Wisconsin, and there are several encounters from Illinois which Bohlen (1989) says do not meet the requirements for a state record "... although two of them came during

irruption years and are probably correct. The specimen from Gross Point [Cook County] cannot be located." He thus classifies the Clark's Nutcracker as hypothetical on the Illinois list. The present specimen should warrant discussion on whether to change the status of the species to very rare vagrant.

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—Edwin C. Franks, Evelyn C. Franks,
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Brewer's Sparrow Winters at Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary in Chicago

On 27 November, 1996, while birding the Magic Hedge at Montrose Point along Chicago's Lake Michigan shore, I ran into fellow birder and Montrose habitue, Luis Munoz, who told me he had seen a small, grayish sparrow of unknown identity on the east side of the Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary the day before.

Intrigued, I went to the bird sanctuary, a fenced-in woodlot south of Montrose near Waveland Golf Course. After searching for a few minutes, I found the bird. To my stunned amazement, the bird turned out to be a Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), a species normally associated with sagebrush flats in the western United States.



Brewer's Sparrow, Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary, Chicago. 22 Feb. 1997. Photo by Robert Hughes.

In size, proportions and plumage, the bird was typical of the genus *Spizella* - small, with a relatively long emarginated tail, a small, conical bill and unstreaked underparts. The complete white eye-ring, finely-streaked nuchal collar and the absence of a pale median crown stripe were also apparent. Overall, the bird was pale and non-descript.

This sighting represents only the third record for Illinois, the first from Jackson Park in Chicago on 26 May 1982 and the second, a window casualty from McCormick Place in Chicago on 29 May 1986. The second bird is now a specimen in the Field Museum of Chicago (Bohlen 1989).

The Lincoln Park Brewer's Sparrow decided to make

the sanctuary its winter home, probably due to the copious amounts of seed put out by birders hoping to see this rarity. Many of them did get the chance. They also heard the bird singing beginning in April. The last person to see the bird at the sanctuary was Kanae Hirabashi, who reported it gone in early to middle May.

Literature Cited

Bohlen, H.D. 1989. *The Birds of Illinois*. Indiana University Press. Bloomington, IN.

—Robert Hughes,
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Varied Thrush Winters in Lake County

Early on 23 November 1996, I spotted a bird at my feeder that at first glance I thought was a robin and at second glance I didn't have a clue. I ran to wake my sleeping kids excitedly yelling, "There is a bird at our feeder and I don't know what it is!"

Within seconds, three of us were jockeying for position with binoculars and bird books. The verdict was a Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*). After some discussion we decided to report "our" thrush to the Chicago Audubon hotline and open up our house to area birders who would like to look at this beautiful bird. I was amazed at how fast the word got out and how many people came. My guess is that some 200 people stopped by our home in Waukegan, Lake County, for two months to see the bird. One of them, Sheryl De Vore, took photographs which are on file with the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee. It was a wonderful, positive experience for the family.

The Varied Thrush is similar to the American Robin in color and shape. The male has a dark breast band which looks like a heavy black necklace. It has orange wing

bands and an orange stripe above the eye. The female is duller and sometimes lacks the breast band. This species is common in the moist coniferous woods of the northwest, from Alaska down to central California. Winter wanderers may rarely be seen as far east as New England.

Most Illinois records are from the northern portion between 21 November and 1 May (Bohlen 1989).

This ground-feeding bird typically eats insects, worms, snails, weed seeds, acorns, and wild berries. At my feeders, the thrush dined on whole corn. As of 27 January 1997, we thought the bird was gone. But it reappeared on 15 February 1997 and was still seen occasionally through at least 23 February 1997.

Literature Cited

Bohlen, H.D. 1989. *The Birds of Illinois*. Indiana University Press

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Two Wintering Clay-Colored Sparrows in Chicago

After birding the Chicago lakefront on 23 November 1996, Denis Bohm and I were returning to where Bohm had parked his car along Pearson and DeWitt Streets in Chicago, Cook County, about two blocks east of Water Tower Place near Michigan Ave. While walking, we noticed numerous White-throated Sparrows along the north side of Lake Shore Park near Pearson Street. At the north end of a tennis court, I noticed a smaller sparrow on the ground. This was a *Spizella* sparrow because it was smaller in size than the nearby House and White-throated Sparrows and had a rather sleek look and long tail.

The bird had a conspicuous median buffy crown stripe through the brown crown, buffy lores and supercilium, with a darkish eyeline below the supercilium that

did not extend in front of the eye. The auriculars were bordered by darker edgings contrasting with a whitish moustachial stripe. The bird also had a conspicuous gray nape. The sparrow was unstreaked below with a buffy upperbreast and otherwise white underparts. There were two slight buffy wing-bars on the light brownish wings. Dorsally, the bird had a long, thin, dark, blackish, forked tail. The bird's bill and legs were pink. The wings concealed the rump.

Bohm agreed this was a Clay-colored Sparrow. I thought late November was rather late for this sighting and I videotaped the bird as it hopped on the ground and foraged with House, Swamp, and White-throated Sparrows for bird seed under some ornamental crabapple trees and cement tables.



Clay-colored Sparrows, Chicago's Lakefront, 21 Dec. 1996. Photo by Eric Walters.

Later Robert Hughes, James Landing, Eric Walters, and other birders saw two Clay-colored Sparrows at this location. On 22 December 1996 during the Chicago Urban Christmas Bird Count, I photographed the two Clay-colored Sparrows together in one of the crabapple trees north of the tennis courts. These two birds were last seen by Steve Bailey on 18 January 1997 at this same location.

Illinois' only other winter record was one photographed by Jim Surman at a feeder in Bensenville, Du Page County on 30 January 1983 (an unpublished but accepted IORC record #1983.011).

Winter records of Clay-colored Sparrow in the Midwest are quite unusual. Minnesota had one record (Janssen 1987). Wisconsin had two records (Ficken and Gustafson 1996; Knicklebine 1995). Indiana had two records (Mumford and Keller 1984) and Missouri had two records (Robbins and Easterla 1991). In the appropriate season, the Clay-colored Sparrow is an occasional Illinois migrant, and a very rare breeding species near Rockford at the state's northern edge (Bohlen 1989).

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Robbins, M. B. And D. A. Esterla. 1991. Birds of Missouri their distribution and abundance. University of Missouri Press, Columbia, Missouri.

Knickelbine, J. 1995. By the Wayside: Clay-colored Sparrow. *The Passenger Pigeon*. 57:209-210.

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Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

~ Corrigenda ~

Red-necked Grebe in Champaign County

Recently Elizabeth J. Chato reported a Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) from Champaign, Illinois. Although she reported this as "...new record for Champaign County ..." (p. 137), it is really a second record. As a student at the University of Illinois (Urbana), I was shown many study specimens to examine as part of the late Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh's ornithology class. One of these was of an immature male Red-necked Grebe collected at Urbana, Illinois by Frank Smith, late professor of zoology at the University of Illinois (Urbana), on 21 February 1904. It is Z 1961 in the zoological collection at the University of Illinois.

I first reported this record in "The Audubon Bulletin" (1957). It was subsequently cited by H. David Bohlen

in *An annotated check-list of the Birds of Illinois* (1978). It was used as basic documentation for this species.

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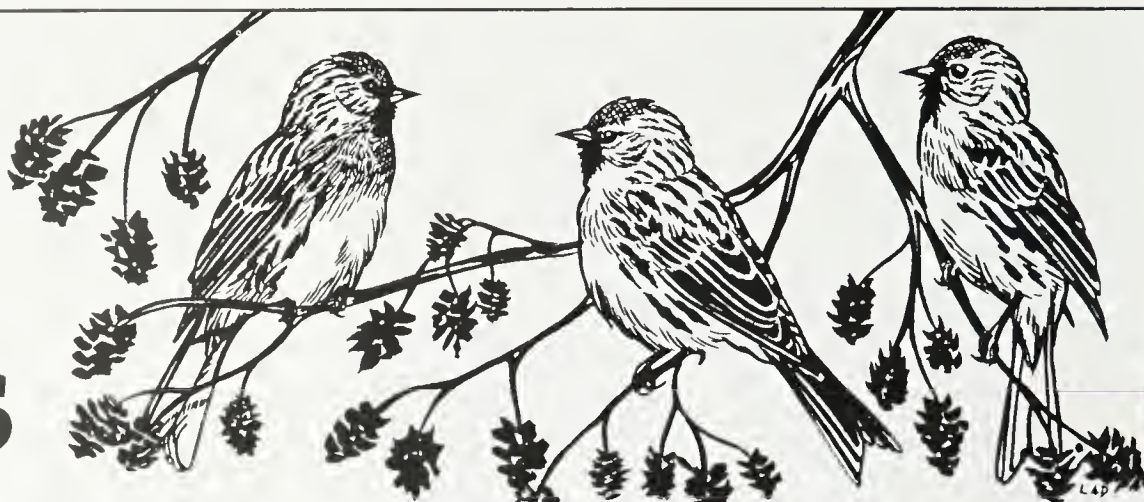
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—Ralph M. Eiseman,
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Field Notes



Common Redpolls by Leslie A. DeCoursey.

The 1996-97 Winter Season

By Robert Danley

The 1996-97 winter season was great for vagrants and rarities. A first-state record was established for Band-tailed Pigeon, and first-time winter records were documented for Clark's Nutcracker, Neotropic Cormorant, and Brewer's Sparrow. For the first time in 83 years, a Boreal Owl was recorded in the state, and two Clay-colored Sparrows were recorded for the second time in winter. Other outstanding finds include Eurasian Wigeon, Pomarine Jaeger, Glaucous-winged Gull, Townsend's Solitaire, Varied Thrush, and Spotted Towhee.

Bird family trends varied. Waterbird highlights include late departing loons, only two species of grebes, late pelicans and cormorants, only three Trumpeter Swans, increasingly larger (huge?) spring stagings for western geese with many Canada Geese wintering north of their traditional southern Illinois areas, good numbers of Oldsquaws away from Lake Michigan, all three scoter species, and very large concentrations of Buffleheads. All the expected birds of prey were found in variable numbers.

Bald Eagles were found in record numbers. Harriers and Rough-legged Hawks were in scattered small groups, roughly not exceeding the low single digits. Accipiters had a very good season. Many were spotted near feeders. A handful of lucky observers found immature Goshawks. Red-tailed Hawks were in poor numbers most everywhere, although various morphs were reported. Numbers were about normal for Merlin and Peregrine Falcon, but somewhat below for American Kestrel.

Gamebirds were scarce except for Wild Turkey. The 10 species of gulls recorded were normal, but the sheer numbers at times were spectacular, especially at Mel Price

Lock & Dam (Mississippi River at Alton). In fact, this site may be wresting away from Lake Calumet the title for most outstanding place for watching gulls.

Snowy Owls invaded the Chicago area. Multiple sightings were recorded on many dates. A single bird made it as far south as Carlyle Lake. One of the nation's most sought after species, the Boreal Owl, made a brief appearance in a Rockford backyard. Wouldn't you like that on your yard list? The other owl species were almost as scarce as the Boreal with concentrations in the low single digits.

Sapsuckers were widespread in low densities. Some observers commented that passerines were more scarce than normal, especially at feeders. Red-breasted Nuthatch highlighted this trend. Robins and other berry-dependent species were uncommon. Most sparrow populations seemed lower, particularly White-crowned Sparrow. Bucking the trend were Dark-eyed Junco (2 "Oregon" type found), Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting, all widespread in good numbers.

The other expected group of visitors, winter finches, were just about totally absent. Only 2 reports of Pine Siskin and 1 of Evening Grosbeak were recorded.

Exciting late departing species include two Eastern Phoebe, two House Wrens, Marsh Wren, American Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, White-eyed Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Indigo Bunting.

The weather during the winter season included warm periods along with seasonably cold temperatures. No extremes were recorded, and there was no prolonged fall

going into December, which has been the case previously for southern areas. Winter seemed to start in November. December precipitation was 50% of the norm for most of the state. Five inches of snow fell in the middle of the month in southern sections. Mean temperatures for the month were 2 degrees F below normal for the northern third and 2 degrees above normal for the southern third. January was the snowiest and coldest month. Precipitation was 100% of normal with the central part of the state receiving 150%. Snow accumulations were 10-18+ inches. The mean temperature was 5 degrees below normal. Precipitation continued above normal in February. The northern third of the state received 300% of normal totals. The mean temperatures were close to normal for February.

Special thanks go to all contributors listed here in full and by initials following each observation: Cindy Alberico, Renee Baade (RBa), Steve Bailey, Brad Bergstrom (BBm),

David Bohlen, Richard Biss, Karin Cassel, Robert Chapel, Elizabeth Chato, Paul Clyne, Bob Danley, Glyn Dawson, Myrna Deaton, Judy De Neal, Josh Engel, Carol Eucolano, Carolyn Fields (CFs), Robert Fisher, Matt Fraker (MFr), Michelle Georgi (MGe), Britten & Martha Gray (BGr), Brad Grover, Jim Herkert (JHe), Scott Hickman, Larry Hood, Robert Hughes, David Johnson, Steve Juhlin (SJn), Dan Kassebaum, Dan Kirk (DKk), Vernon Kleen, Dave Kvernes (DKs), James Landing, Walter Marcisz, Michael Madsen, John McDaniel (JMd), Cynthia McKee (CMc), Keith McMullen, Igal Milchtaich, Roy Morris (RMs), Lou Munoz, Bud Polk (BPk), Michael Retter, William Rowe, Frank Seppi (FSp), Wes Serafin, Darrell Shambaugh, James Smith, Alan Stokie, Paul Sweet (PSw), Jack Van Benthuisen, Eric Walters, Richard Whitton (RWh), Dan Williams, Loraine Wright (LWr), Rick Wright, Jim Ziebol. Waterfowl survey reports from Michelle Georgi (MGe) are aerial survey estimates.

As a printing aide, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

ad.	= adult	Bald. L	= Baldwin Lake (Randolph Co)
Co (s)	= County (ies)	Carl. L	= Carlyle Lake (Clinton & Bond Cos)
subad.	= subadult	CBG	= Chicago Botanic Gardens (Glencoe, Cook Co)
CA	= Conservation Area	CCNWR	= Cypress Creek NWR (Johnson & Pulaski Co)
1st	= 1st winter plumage	Chi	= Chicago's Lakefront Parks, excluding JP (Cook Co)
FP	= Forest Preserve	Clin. L	= Clinton Lake (De Witt Co)
2nd	= 2nd winter plumage	CONWR	= Crab Orchard NWR (Williamson Co)
FWA	= Fish and Wildlife Area	Fermi	= Fermilab at Batavia (Du Page Co)
3rd	= 3rd winter plumage	GLPSP	= Goose Lake Prairie SP (Grundy Co) & Heidecke L
est.	= estimated	HL	= Horseshoe Lake (Madison Co)
imm.	= immature	HLCA	= Horseshoe Lake CA (Alexander Co)
INHS	= IL Natural History Survey	IBSP	= Illinois Beach State Park (Lake Co)
*	= documented	JP	= Chicago's Jackson Park (Cook Co)
L	= Lake	LCal	= Lake Calumet & vicinity (Cook Co)
resp.	= respectively	LChau	= Lake Chatauqua NWR (Mason Co)
LD	= late departure	LCNP	= La Salle County Nuclear Plant (La Salle Co)
m.ob.	= many observers	MArb	= Morton Arboretum (Du Page Co)
L & D	= Lock & Dam	MM	= McKee Marsh (Du Page Co)
MC	= maximum count	Rend L	= Rend Lake (Franklin & Jefferson Cos)
NP	= Nature Preserve	SRSF	= Sand Ridge State Forest (Mason Co)
NC	= Nature Center	Spfld	= Springfield (Sangamon Co)
NWR	= National Wildlife Refuge	UCCA	= Union County Conservation Area
R	= River	Wauk	= Waukegan (Lake Co)
SF	= State Forest		
SP	= State Park		
IDNR	= Illinois Department of Natural Resources		
I.O.R.C.	= Illinois Ornithological Records Committee		

A number in parentheses () indicates the number of birds observed at a particular location or on a particular date. No number signifies single birds. Dates, counts or sites undrelined and bolded represent very early/late dates or counts unprecedented or extremely significant for the state or that region.

FIELD NOTES

1996-1997 Winter Season

Red-throated Loon

LD: 7 Dec. (2), IBSP (PSw); 4 Dec., Wauk (SH); .

Pacific Loon

25 Dec. (3), CONWR (*BD).

Common Loon

LD: 7 Jan. (3), CONWR (BD); 6 Jan., Peabody River King SFWA (St Clair Co)(JV); 16 Dec., Spfld (DB); 8 Dec., Wauk (JL).

Pied-billed Grebe

Wintered. MC: 45, Spfld, 23 Jan. (DB); 18, CONWR, 3 Jan. (BD). LD: 4 Jan., Chi (AS); 11 Dec. (2), Crystal Lake (McHenry Co)(RBa).

Horned Grebe

Scarce. MC: 3, CONWR, 4 Jan. (BD). LD: 4 Jan., Fox R (Kane Co)(DS); 22 Dec., Spfld (DB); 7 Dec., IBSP (DB, MD, VK).

American White Pelican

May have wintered at these locations: 21 Dec. (2), MTNWR (WR); 21 Feb. (6), Calhoun Co (JV).

Double-crested Cormorant

Wintered (1) at Spfld (DB). MC: 10, Carl. L, 11 Jan. (DK). LD: 4 Jan., Lockport(CA); 4 Jan., LCal (AS); 25 Dec., Chi (DJ); 21 Dec., LCNP (CMc, JMc).

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT

1st winter record for state. 3 Jan., HLCA (*KM, MD).

Great Blue Heron

MC: 151, Rend L, 21 Dec. (KM, FB). LD: 31 Jan., Spfld (DB); 31 Jan., COLSP(SH); 19 Jan., Peoria L & D (Tazewell Co)(MR); 19 Jan. (2), Starved Rock L & D (La Salle Co)(CMc); 18 Jan., Rockford(DW); 4 Jan., Will Co (CA).

Great Egret

LD: 15 Dec., Franklin Co (BD).

Black-crowned Night-Heron

28 Dec., LCal (WM); 21 Dec. (2), Skokie(EW).

Tundra Swan

All records. 22 Dec. (6), Palos (WS); 1-2 Jan. (8), St. Mary's Seminary (Lake Co)(AS, MM); 22-23 Feb. (5), Clinton Co (JV).

Trumpeter Swan

3, Carl. L, 17 Dec. (DK-2 were eventually found shot).

Mute Swan

MC: 90, Wolf L (Cook Co), 8 Feb. (WM); 36, Kemper L (Lake Co), in Jan. (CFs); 26, Druce L (Lake Co), 1 Jan. (DJ); 11, Fox R (Kane Co), 12 Jan.—but 2 thru Feb (DS); 7, Spfld, 25 Dec. (DB).

Greater White-fronted Goose

“Greenland” race- 3 times/period, Winnebago Co (*BG). Winter MC: 128, Sangamon Co, 18 Dec. (DB); 60, Carl. L, 24 Dec. (DK); 60, HLCA, 3 Jan. (KM, MD); 45, UCCA, 5 Jan. (BD); 25, Mel Price L & D (Madison Co), all period (WR). Spring stagings MC: 600+, Clin. L, 22 Feb. (RC); 250, Sangamon Co, 19 Feb. (DB); 45, McLean Co, 23 Feb. (fide MFr); 36, LCNP, 23 Feb. (CMc).

Snow Goose

Winter MC: 25,000, CCNWR, 6 Jan. (RWh); 16,000, Rend L, 9 Dec. (RWh). For the most part, they didn't winter in these large “migrant” numbers. Spring stagings, tremendous numbers MC: 320,000, southern Illinois aerial survey, 17 Feb. (RWh); 100,000, Carl. L, 15 Feb. (KM, DK); 13,000, Sangamon Co, 18 Feb. (DB).

Ross's Goose

Winter MC: 5, Rend L, 15 Dec. (BD); 2, HLCA, 3 Jan. (KM, MD). Spring stagings MC: 10+, Sangamon Co, 19 Feb. (DB-many hybrid Ross'/Snow noted also); 7, Baldwin L (Randolph Co), 17 Feb. (KM); 2, LCNP, 23 Feb. (CMc).

Canada Goose

The Mississippi Valley population “short stopped” in southern Wisconsin and north of traditional areas in southern Illinois. MC: 302,000, aerial survey of southern Illinois, 8 Jan. (RWh). Hunters only harvested 67 % of their quota or 24,479 birds.

Wood Duck

LD: 14 Jan., Spfld (DB); 4 Jan., Fox R (Kane Co)(DS); 22 Dec., Moraine View SP (McLean Co)(MR); 21 Dec., MM (EW); 7 Dec. (2 female), Illini SP (La Salle Co)(CMc).

Green-winged Teal

Wintered in small numbers. MC: 700, CCNWR, 10 Dec. (MGe). Others: 4, HLCA, 3 Jan. (KM, MD); pair wintered, M.Arb (m.ob.). LD: 2 Jan., Spfld (DB).

American Black Duck

MC: 3,500, Illinois R at Duck Creek, 9 Dec. (MGe). Others: 90, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (KM); 59, Illinois R at Seneca, 21 Dec. (DS).

Mallard

MC: 197,765, IDNR-District 7, area centered on LCNP, 9 Dec. Others: 1500, Spfld, 26 Dec. (DB).

Northern Pintail

Wintered in small numbers-south. MC: 4,400, Mississippi R-Calhoun Co, 9 Dec. (MGe). Others: 30, CONWR, 3 Jan. (BD); 25, UCCA, 4 Jan. (KM, DK); 8, LCNP, 7 Dec. (CMc); 7, Spfld, 28 Dec. (DB). LD: 3 Jan., Cherry Valley (Winnebago Co)(BG).

Northern Shoveler

Wintered in small numbers statewide. MC: 160, HL, 9 Dec. (KM). Others: 30, Carl. L, 17 Dec. (DK); 17 wintered, Kemper L (Lake Co)(CFs); 5, Sangamon Co, 18 Dec. (DB); 28 Dec.- 1 Jan., Evanston(EW).

Gadwall

Wintered at usual sewer pond locations. MC: 2,000, CCNWR, 10 Dec. (MGe). Others: 100, Spfld, 21 Dec. (DB); 100, HL, 14 Dec. (KM); 66, Carbondale (Jackson Co), 10 Dec. (BD); 3, Lake Co, 19 Jan. (PSw); 2, LCNP, 4 Jan. (CMc).

Eurasian Wigeon

18 Feb., Moraine View SP (McLean Co)(*BPK).

American Wigeon

Wintered in small numbers. MC: 500, Mississippi R at Calhoun Co, 9 Dec. (MGe). Others: 20, Spfld, 6 Dec. (DB); 8, Wauk, 21 Dec. (PSw); 4, UCCA, 4 Jan. (KM, DK).

Canvasback

Wintered in usual numbers and places. Others: 45, Spfld, 8 Jan. (DB); 14, Carbondale (Jackson Co), 3 Jan. (BD); 8, HL, 31 Dec. (KM); 2, Wauk, 21 Dec. (PSw). Spring MC: 7,500, Mississippi R- Hancock Co, 25 Feb. (VK,DB); 300, Carl. L, 19 Feb. (DK).

Redhead

Found in usual low numbers. LD: 11 Jan. (3), Carl. L (DK); 9 Jan., Spfld (DB); 15 Dec., Winthrop Harbor (PSw).

Ring-necked Duck

Wintered in small numbers. MC: 27, UCCA, 4 Jan. (KM, DK); 9, Spfld, 31 Dec. (DB). Others: since late Aug.-into Mar. (female), Evanston (EW,IM); 15 Dec., Wauk (PSw); 11 Dec. (6), Crystal Lake (Lake Co)(RBA); 9 Dec., Durand (Winnebago Co)(BG).

Greater Scaup

Others: 10, CONWR, 22 Jan. (BD); 5, Spfld, 31 Dec. (DB); 2 pair, Carl. L, 5 Jan. (DK); female, Durand (Winnebago Co), 9 Dec. (BG).

Lesser Scaup

Wintered in good numbers. MC: 1,500+, Mississippi R-Rock Island Co, 28 Feb. (PP); 1,000, CONWR, 30 Jan. (BD); 65, LCal, 4 Jan. (WM); 60, Spfld, 8 Jan. (DB).

Harlequin Duck

24 Nov.- 27 Dec. (female), Wilmette (EW, RH, m.ob).

Oldsquaw

Good numbers away from L Michigan. MC: 10, CONWR, 7 Feb. (DKk); 7, Evanston, 3 Jan. (CFs); 2-5, Carl. L, 23 Dec.-5 Jan. (DK); 1-3, Spfld, 1 Dec.- 5 Jan. (DB); imm., 1 Dec., Winnebago Co (BG); 7-8 Dec., Wauk (PSw); 10 Jan., Chi (DJ).

Surf Scoter

3 Dec.- 6 Jan., Spfld (DB); male, IBSP, 29 Dec. (AS).

White-winged Scoter

male, IBSP, 19 Jan. (AS). EA: pair, 17-18 Feb., Spfld (DB).

Common Goldeneye

MC: 12,845, upper Mississippi R, 6 Jan. (MGe). Others: 665, CONWR, 14 Feb. (BD); 630, Spfld, 26 Dec. (DB); 500, LCNP, 4 Jan. (CMc); 350, IBSP, 19 Jan. (KM); 150, Carl. L, 1 Feb. (DK); 110, Wilmette, 11 Jan. (EW); 46, JP, 3 Jan. (PC).

Bufflehead

Others: 70, Winthrop Harbor, 15 Dec. (PSw); 14, Spfld, 26 Dec. (DB); 12, mid-Dec. thru Feb., JP (PC).

Hooded Merganser

MC: 60+, Spfld, 5 Dec. (DB); 40, HL, 10 Dec. (KM); 36, CONWR, 4 Jan. (BD); 7, Wauk, 15 Feb. (DJ); 4, LCNP, 4 Jan. (CMc). Others: 3, Crystal Lake (McHenry Co), 11 Dec. (RBA); 3, Will Co, 23 Feb. (CA); 22 Jan. (female), Rockford (BG); 22 Jan. (male), JP (KC); male wintered, LCal (JL).

Common Merganser

Good widespread numbers. MC: 11,175, upper Mississippi R, 17 Feb. (MGe); 6,500, LCNP, 4 Jan. (CMc). Others: 770, HL, 31 Jan. (KM); 500, Spfld, Jan. (DB); 300, Carl. L, 1 Feb. (DK).

Red-breasted Merganser

MC: 19, mid-Dec.-Feb., JP (PC-modest numbers); 2, Spfld, 15 Jan. (DB); HL, 14 Dec. (KM); Crystal L (McHenry Co), 11 Dec. (RBA).

Ruddy Duck

Wintered in small numbers at usual locations. MC: 19+, Carbondale (Jackson Co), 3 Jan. (BD); 3, Spfld, 1 Jan. (DB). LD: 16 Dec. (3), Winnebago Co (BG); 15 Dec., JP (PC); 1 Dec., LCNP (CMc).

Black Vulture

Wintering in traditional areas. 8, Heron Pond (Johnson Co), 20 Jan. (DK).

Turkey Vulture

LD: 21 Dec., Wheaton (RF); 21 Dec., nw. Du Page Co (*m.ob.) - same bird as first record?; 15 Dec., Carl. L (DK).

Bald Eagle

MC: 2,459 (most ever), in Jan., statewide count-Jim Herkert (IDNR). Others: 206, Mississippi R- L & D 13 & 14 (Rock Island/Whiteside Co), 19 Jan. (PP); 53, Illinois R, 12 Jan. (RC); 21, Starved Rock L & D (La Salle Co), 1 Feb. (CMc).

Northern Harrier

Scarce. MC: 20, La Salle Co, 4 Jan. (CMc); 6, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (DK); 4, De Kalb Co, 15 Feb. (DS). Others: 3, Jackson/Union Co, Jan. (BD); 2, Fulton Co, 31 Jan. (LH); 2, Glenview Naval Air Station (Cook Co), 22 Dec. (DJ); Chi, 18 Jan. (RC); Winnebago Co, 22 Jan. (BG); None in winter (DB).

Sharp-shinned Hawk

21 Dec., Will Co (CA); 11 Jan., Lake Co (PSw); 23 Jan., Sangamon Co (DB); 9 Feb., La Salle Co (CMc); 15 Feb., Carl. L (DK). Others: period (2), Kane Co (LH); period (2), Jackson Co (DKs); period (2), McHenry Co (CFs); period, Rockford (DW); period, Warren Co (LH).

Cooper's Hawk

Very good season. MC: 7 sightings/period, Rockford (DW). Others: 1 Dec. (imm), Evanston (EW); 4 Dec. (imm), JP (PC); 10 Dec. (2), Spfld (DB); 14 Dec., Bloomington (McLean Co)(MR); 21 Dec., McHenry Co (PSw); 23 Dec. (2 imm), Kane Co (LH); 22 Jan., Carl. L (DK); 31 Jan., U of I campus (Champaign Co)(RC); 1 Feb. (2), Tazewell/Mason Co (RC); 22 Feb., La Salle Co (CMc); pair wintered, McHenry Co (CFs); period, O'Fallon (St Clair Co)(KM); period (2), Jackson Co (DKk).

Northern Goshawk

3 Dec., Urbana (RC); 6 Dec. (imm), Spfld (DB); 27 Dec., Rockford (DW); 22 Jan. (imm), Rockford (BG); 23 Feb. (imm), Normal (McLean Co)(DBi).

Red-shouldered Hawk

1 Feb. (imm), Carl. L (DK); 1 Feb. (imm), Peoria (Tazewell Co)(RC); 2 Feb. (ad), Allerton Park (Piatt Co)(RC); 15 Feb. (subad), Lyons Woods (Lake Co)(DJ).

Red-tailed Hawk

Poor numbers, though various morphs reported. "Harlan's"-wintered (ad), UCCA (BD); wintered, Carl. L (DK). "Krider's"-21 Dec., Rockford (*DW). "Rufous" morph- 7 Jan., Cook Co (WS); 11 Jan., Rockford (*DW); 7 Feb., Lake Co (CFs). "Dark" morph- seen 3 times/period, Sangamon Co (DB).

Rough-legged Hawk

Low concentrations most everywhere. MC: 5, I-74 near Carlock (McLean Co), 19 Jan. (MR). Others: 9 Dec., McDonough Co (LH); 27-28 Dec., Glenview (EW); 1 Jan., MFWA (RC); 11 Jan. (dark phase), Carl. L (DK); 18 Jan., LCal (RC); 19 Jan. (light phase), Whiteside Co (CFs); 20 Jan., McLean Co (KM); 23 Jan. (light phase) and 29 Jan. (dark phase), Sangamon Co (DB); 25 Jan., Jackson Co (BD); 2 Feb., De Kalb Co (WS); 9 Feb., Champaign Co (RC).

Golden Eagle

Good season though no birds actually wintered; 3, UCCA, 8-24 Dec. (BD); imm, Jersey Co, 13 Dec. (JV).

American Kestrel

MC: 22, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (DK); 10, Sangamon Co, 3 Dec. (DB); 8, Jackson Co, 5 Jan. (BD).

Merlin

16 Dec. (female), Klehm Arboretum (Rockford)(JDo); 21 Dec., Pecatonica (Winnebago Co)(DW); 13 & 22 Jan. (male), Rockford (BG); early Jan., Jackson Co (SO).

Peregrine Falcon

MC: 4, Chi, 23 Feb. (JL). Others: 2 Dec. & 8 Feb., Mel Price L & D (Madison Co)(JV); 4-5 Jan. & 8 Feb., LCal (WM); 23 Jan., Rockford (RMr); wintered (2), JP (PC); wintered, Wauk/Zion (fide EW).

Gray Partridge

"Notable scarcity in Winnebago Co"- DW.

Wild Turkey

Excellent numbers, widespread. MC: 81, La Salle Co, 11 Jan. (CMc); 62, Rock Island/Whiteside Co, 19 Jan. (CFs); 17, East Alton (Madison Co), 7 Feb. (KM); 14, Jackson Co, 30 Jan. (DK).



An American Kestrel, stalking sparrows "right in my own backyard," Evanston, IL, Cook Co. 15 Jan. 1997. Photo by Kathy Ade.

Northern Bobwhite

Few reports or actually scarce? MC: 16, Sangamon Co, 2 Dec. (DB); 15, HL, 10 Dec. (KM); 12, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (DK).

American Coot

Wintered. MC: 40, HL, 10 Dec. (KM); 30, Spfld, 1 Jan. (DB); 17, Carbondale (Jackson Co), 3 Jan. (BD). LD: 1 Jan., Rock R (Rock Island/Whiteside Co)(PP); 4 Jan., LCNP (CMc); 21 Dec., Illinois R at Seneca (DS); 11 Dec. (2), Crystal Lake (McHenry Co)(RBa).

Sandhill Crane

LD: 31 Dec. (40), Vermilion Co (JS).

Killdeer

LD: 3 Jan. (2), HLCA (KM, MD); 10 Dec., Sangchris S.P. (DB).

Common Snipe

LD: 28 Dec., Glenview Naval Air Station (m.ob.); 21 Dec., Will Co (CA); 10 Dec. (2), Spfld (DB). Wintering record?: 3 Feb., Madison Co (JV).

American Woodcock

EA: 4 Jan., Saline Co (JD); 17 Feb., Sauget (St Clair Co)(KM); 21 Feb., Sangchris S.P. (DB).



American Kestrel, Springfield IL, Sangamon Co. 6 Jan. 1997. Photo by Dennis Oehlunke.

Pomarine Jaeger

23 Nov.-15 Dec. (imm), Mel Price L & D (Madison Co)(JV, DK et al).

Bonaparte's Gull

Did not winter. MC/LD: 50, Spfld, 8 Jan. (DB); 35, CONWR, 3 Jan. (BD); 17, Wilmette, 8 Dec. (JL).

Ring-billed Gull

MC: 10,000, Hancock Co, 25 Feb. (VK, DB); 1,500, LCNP, 1 Dec. (CMc); 1,500, Spfld, 17 Dec. (DB). {Ring-billed/Herring Gull} MC: 20-30,000, Mel Price L & D (Madison Co), early Feb. (JV, et al)

Herring Gull

MC: 5-10,000, Mel Price L & D, Jan. (WR); 3,000, LCNP, 21 Dec. (CMc); 3,000, LCal, 12 Jan. (WM); 200, Hancock Co, 25 Feb. (VK, DB); 150, Spfld, 31 Jan. (DB).

Thayer's Gull

Very good season. MC: 5 wintered, Mel Price L & D (Madison Co)(JV); 3, LCal, 18 Jan. (RC); 3, Chi, 10-11 Jan. (EW,JE). Others: 2 (3rd, ad), LCal, 8 Feb. (WM); 2 ad, Mallard Lake FP (Du Page Co), 30 Dec. (MM); 2 (1st's), Carl. L, 19 Dec. (DK); ad, Camp Logan (Lake Co), 8 Dec. (PSw); 1st winter, Cook Co, 22 Dec. (LH); 1st, Spfld, 1 Jan. (DB); ad, Carl. L, 13 Feb. (DK); 2nd winter, LCNP, 23 Feb. (CMc).

Iceland Gull

Great season downstate. All adults in Illinois assumed to be 'Kumlien's' unless documented otherwise. MC: 4 wintered (mostly 1st, 2nd winter with ad, 8 Feb.), Mel Price L & D (Madison Co)(JV). Others: 8 Jan. (ad), Spfld (DB); 12 Jan. (ad), LCal (WM); 18 Jan. (ad), LCal (RC); 26 Jan. (1st), Peoria L & D (Tazewell Co)(RC); 13 Feb. (1st), Carl. L (DK).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Good numbers of mostly adults. MC: 2 ad wintered, Mel Price L & D (Madison Co)(JV); 2 ad, Carl. L, 17 Dec. & 13 Feb. (DK); ad (wintered) & 1st (14-19 Feb.), Spfld (DB). Others: 21 Dec., Kane Co (MM); 28 Dec. (ad), Wilmette (EW,IM); 30 Dec. (ad), Peoria L & D (LH); 18 Jan. (ad), LCal (RC); 22 Feb. (ad), Clin. L (RC); 27 Feb. (ad), Wauk (PSw).

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL

26 Jan. & 1 Feb. (1st winter), Peoria L & D (Tazewell Co)(*RC,m.ob.); 6 Feb.+ (1st winter), Mel Price L & D (Madison Co)(*JV,*DK,*JZ).



Snowy Owl, Montrose Harbor, Chicago. 16 Feb. 1997. Photo by Robert Hughes.



Snowy Owl, Montrose Harbor, Chicago. 12 Dec. 1996. Photo by Craig Thayer.

Glaucous Gull

MC: 3 wintered, Mel Price L & D (Madison Co)(JV); 3, LCal, 31 Jan. (JL); 2, LCal, 18 Jan. (RC); 2 (1st & ad), Peoria L & D, 26 Jan. (RC); 2 (2nd & ad), LCNP, 23 Feb. (CMc). Others: 21 Dec. (1st), LCNP (CMc); 21 Dec., Kane Co (MM); 30 Dec. (1st), Peoria L & D (LH); 30 Dec., Mallard Lake FP (Du Page Co)(MM); 1 Feb. (1st), LChau (RC).

Great Black-backed Gull

Great season. MC: 2 wintered, Mel Price L & D (Madison Co)(JV); 2 (1st winter), Spfld, 10 Jan. & 19 Feb. (DB). Others: 22 Dec., Winnetka (Cook Co)(LH); 30 Dec., Mallard Lake FP (Du Page Co)(MM); 1-3 Jan. (ad), Evanston/Wilmette (EW,m.ob.); 18 Jan. (2nd), Evanston (RC); 12-15 Feb. (1st), Carl. L (DK, KM).

Black-legged Kittiwake

4 Jan. (imm), LCNP (ph-CMc).

BAND-TAILED PIGEON

1st state record. 22 Dec.-23 Jan. (ad), Spfld (*DB,m.ob.,ph). See separate story for details.

Mourning Dove

MC: 307, Univ. of Chi, 1 Feb. (GD); 136, Dundee (Kane Co), 23 Dec. (LH); 115, Rend L, 21 Dec. (KM, FB); 75, Sangamon Co, 8 Dec. (DB).

Eastern Screech-Owl

"Numbers declining?"-DB (only 2 during period-Sangamon Co). MC: 7, Lake Co, 1 Jan. (DJ); 4, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al).

Great Horned Owl

MC: 5, Sangamon Co, 22 Dec. (DB). Other: 11 Dec., Evanston (EW); 13 Dec., Chi (Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary) (EW).

Snowy Owl

Invasion year. 33+ records in the metropolitan area of Chi (DJ). MC: 5, Chi (Montrose Harbor), 22 Dec. (DJ,m.ob.). Others: 2, LCNP, 21 Dec. (CMc); Carl. L, 14-30 Dec. (FSp); 27-28 Dec., Wilmette (EW,m.ob.); 2-4 present daily on Chi lakefront (m.ob.).

Barred Owl

No significant reports other than 10 Feb., Orland Park (Cook Co)(WS).

Long-eared Owl

Very few sightings. MC: 3, Rend L, 21 Dec. (DK). Others: 31 Dec.- 1 Jan., Middlefork FWA (RC); 5 Jan.- mid-Feb., Lyons Woods (Lake Co)(AS); 1-22 Feb., Clinton Co (JV).

Short-eared Owl

No large concentrations. MC: 4, Durand (Winnebago Co), 21 Dec.- 15 Feb. (BG, DW). Others: 3, Bloomington (McLean Co), mid Dec. (MFr); 2, De Kalb Co, 19 Jan. (DS); 2 Dec.- 30 Jan., Glenview (Cook Co)(EW); 21 Dec., La Salle Co (CMc); 23 Dec., Carl. L (DK); 7 Jan., Peabody Strip Mine (St Clair Co)(DK); 31 Jan., HL (KM).

BOREAL OWL

1st record since 1914; 9 Feb., Rockford (Mdy,*BG,*RMs). See separate story for details.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

1 Jan., Kickapoo SP (Vermilion Co)(RC); 5 Jan., Van Patten Woods (Lake Co)(AS); 2 Feb., Allerton Park (Piatt Co)(RC).

Belted Kingfisher

Wintered in southern locations. Other records: 7 Dec., Skokie Lagoons F.P. (Cook Co)(JMd); 14 Dec., LCal (JL); 22 Dec., JP (KC); 7 Jan., Bushnell (McDonough Co)(LH); 4, Spfld, 11 Jan. (DB); 2, Starved Rock L & D, 1 Feb. (CMc).

Red-headed Woodpecker

Records away from southern Illinois strongholds. MC: 16, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (DK); 4, Spfld, 12 Dec. (DB); 4 wintered, Homer (Vermilion Co)(JS).

Red-bellied Woodpecker

MC: 34, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (DK); 11, Spfld, 22 Dec. (DB); 9, Cap Sauers FP (Cook Co), 22 Dec. (PSw); 2 wintered, Homer (Vermilion Co)(JS). Other: wintered, Chi (Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary) (KH,EW,JL-unusual record for lakefront).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Few reports. MC: 3, Spfld, 19 Dec. (DB). Others: 22 Dec., De Kalb Co (DS); 1 Jan., Rockford (DW, BG); 25 Jan., Ryerson Nature Area (Lake Co)(SH); 1 Feb., Pomona (Jackson Co)(KM).

Downy Woodpecker

MC: 35, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (DK); 20, I & M canal (La Salle Co), 21 Dec. (DS); 18, Cap Sauers FP (Cook Co), 22 Dec. (PSw); 5-6 pairs wintered, JP (PC); 10, Spfld, 22 Dec. (DB).

Hairy Woodpecker

Few reports. MC: 8, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (DK); 3, Spfld, 23 Jan. (DB). Other: 18 Jan., Chi (Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary) (JL).

Northern Flicker

MC: 20, HLCA, 3 Jan. (KM, MD); 10, Spfld, 12 Dec. (DB). LD: 19 Jan., La Salle Co (DS).

Pileated Woodpecker

MC: 3, Spfld, 2 Dec. (DB); 3, Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co), 23 Jan. (KM).

Eastern Phoebe

LD: 19 Dec., Spfld (DB); 2 Dec., Lincolnwood (Cook Co)(RE).

Horned Lark

MC: 1,385, Sangamon Co, 9 Jan. (DB). Others: 90, La Salle Co, 1 Dec. (CMc); 88, Pike Co, 29 Jan. (KM); 61, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK); 50, Fulton/Cordova (mostly Whiteside Co), 19 Jan. (JMd); 35, Killdeer (Lake Co) 12 Jan. (CFs); 24, Volo (Lake Co), 16 Feb. (JL).

Blue Jay

MC: 103, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al); 38, Sangamon Co, 22 Dec. (DB); 35, Rend L, 21 Dec. (KM, FB); 22, I & M canal (La Salle Co), 21 Dec. (DS).

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER

2nd state record/specimen: 27 Dec.- 13 Jan., Carthage (Hancock Co)(**BGr). See seasonal highlights for details.

American Crow

MC: 148,000, Danville, 1 Jan. (m. ob.). Others: 1,100 (peak of roost), Evanston, 18 Feb. (EW); 900, HL, 14 Dec. (KM); 600, Spfld, 26 Dec. (DB); 191, JP, 10 Dec. (KC).

Black-capped Chickadee

MC: 77, Cap Sauers FP (Cook Co), 22 Dec. (PSw). Others: 24, Sangamon Co, 22 Dec. (DB); 16-18, JP, wintered (PC).

Carolina Chickadee

MC: 94, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al).

Tufted Titmouse

MC: 60, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al); 22, Rend L, 21 Dec. (KM, FB); 14, Sangamon Co, 22 Dec. (DB). Other: 2, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 19 Jan. (JMd).

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Very scarce. MC: 4, Winnebago Co, 21 Dec. (DW). Others: 16 Dec.-30 Jan., Bushnell (McDonough Co)(LH); 4 Jan., UCCA (SJn, RC); 1-4 Feb., Carl. L (DK, JV); 8-15 Feb. (1-2 birds), Lyons Woods (Lake Co)(PSw).

White-breasted Nuthatch

MC: 19, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al); 7, Sangamon Co, 4 Dec. (DB).

Brown Creeper

Good numbers. MC: 14, I & M canal (La Salle Co), 29 Dec. (DS); 13, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al); 6, Sangamon Co, 1 Jan. (DB); 5, Cap Sauers FP (Cook Co), 22 Dec. (PSw); 2 win



Short-eared Owl, Glenview Naval Air Station, Cook Co. Two Short-eared Owls wintered here. Photo taken in December 1996 by Eric Walters.

tered, JP (PC); wintered Bushnell (McDonough Co)(LH).

Carolina Wren

MC: 20, Carl. L., 22 Dec. (DK et al); 9, Spfld, 13 Dec. (DB). Other: 1 & M canal (Grundy Co), 29 Dec. (DS); 28 Dec. (2), Highland Park (fide EW).

House Wren

LD: 20 Dec., Clin. L. (*RC,*SB); mid Dec.-early Jan., Spfld (DB).

Winter Wren

MC: 3, Spfld, Dec. (DB); 3, HLCA, 3 Jan. (KM, MD); 21 Dec., Wheaton (EW,RF).

Marsh Wren

LD: 21 Dec., Rockford (DW).

Golden-crowned Kinglet

MC: 20, Carl. L., 22 Dec. (DK et al). Others: 3, Cap Sauers FP (Cook Co), 22 Dec. (PSw); 2, Gurnee (Lake Co), 1 Jan. (DJ); 14 Jan., Sangamon Co (DB); 23 Jan., Pecatonica (Winnebago Co)(BG).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

MC: 2, HLCA, 3 Jan. (KM, MD). LD: 1 Jan., Spfld (DB).



Townsend's Solitaire, Rockford, IL. 7 Jan. 1997. Photo by Dennis Oehunke.

Eastern Bluebird

MC: 8, Rend L., 21 Dec. (KM, FB); 5, Sangchris S.P., 1 Dec. (DB); 3, Putnam Co, 5 Jan. (CMc). LD: 2 Dec. (3), Woodstock (McHenry Co)(RBA).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE

Klehm Arboretum (Rockford), 28 Dec.-3 March (DW,m.ob.).

Hermit Thrush

MC: 3, Alexander Co, 3 Jan. (RC). Others: 17 Dec., JP (KC); Klehm Arboretum (Rockford), 18 Jan.- 24 Feb. (BG).

American Robin

Wintered in small numbers. MC: 16, Spfld, 17 Dec. (DB); 12, De Kalb Co, 22 Dec. (DS); 8 wintered (1 was an albino), Klehm Arboretum (Rockford)(BG); 5, Rend L., 21 Dec. (KM, FB). LD: 5 Jan. (2), JP (PC).

Varied Thrush

8 Dec.-22 Mar., Wauk (CE,m.ob.,ph.) - at a feeder. See seasonal highlights for details.

Northern Mockingbird

Wintered in fair numbers.



Northern Mockingbird, Springfield, Sangamon Col. 12 Jan. 1997. Photo by Dennis Oehunke.

Brown Thrasher

Few reports, wintered at feeder in Bloomington (McLean Co)(MFr).

American Pipit

23, HLCA, 3 Jan. (KM, MD et al).

Cedar Waxwing

MC: 200, Klehm Arboretum (Rockford), 10 Feb. (BG); 108, CBG, 31 Jan. (CFs); 40, Dundee (Kane Co), 23 Dec. (LH); 18, Spfld, 20 Jan. (DB); 15, Rend L, 21 Dec. (KM, FB). Others: 16 Dec., Clin. L (KM).

Northern Shrike

Good season. 21 Dec., Will Co (CA); 21 Dec., Rockford (DW); 23 Dec., Kane Co (LH); 3 Jan., Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co)(BG); 5 Jan., Lake Co (SH); 27 Dec-19 Jan., Glenview (EW); 31 Jan., McHenry Co (RBa).

Loggerhead Shrike

MC: 5, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al). Others: 2 Jan., McDonough Co (LH); 2 during period, Sangamon Co (DB).

European Starling

MC: 281, JP, 1 Jan. (PC).

White-eyed Vireo

LD: 11 Dec., Spfld (DB).

Orange-crowned Warbler

LD: 1 Jan., Spfld (DB).

Yellow-rumped Warbler

MC: 6, UCCA, 4 Jan. (KM, MD). Others: 2, Will Co, 21 Dec. (CA); 2, Middlefork FWA, 1 Jan. (RC); 2, Winnebago Co, 18 Jan. (BG); 21 Dec., Wheaton (EW,RF); 1 Jan., Spfld (DB).

Northern Cardinal

MC: 233, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al); 58, Rend L, 21 Dec. (KM, FB); 52, Spfld, 22 Dec. (DB); 14 wintered, JP (PC).

Indigo Bunting

14 Dec. (female) & 23 Dec. (different female) & 1 Feb. (male), Carl. L (DK- found in sunflower fields); 3 Jan. (female), HLCA (DK).

Eastern Towhee

3 records in Dec., Spfld (DB); 20 Dec. (male) & 21 Dec. (female), Rockford (DW- feeder attendees).

Spotted Towhee

1 Dec.-19 Jan.+ (female), Max McGraw Wildlife Center (Kane Co) (RM,m.ob.,ph.).

American Tree Sparrow

MC: 240, Sangamon Co, 12 Jan. (DB); 182, LCNP, 4 Jan. (CMc); 106, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al), 42, Rend L, 21 Dec. (KM, FB).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW

23 Nov-18 Jan., Chi (Lakeshore Park) (DJ,RH,EW,ph.). 2nd Illinois winter record. See seasonal highlights for details.

BREWER'S SPARROW

24 Nov-into spring, Chi (Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary (RH,LM,m.ob.,ph.). 3rd state record/1st winter record. See seasonal highlights for details.

Field Sparrow

MC: 9, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al). Others: 3, Sangamon Co, 12 Dec. (DB); 3 Jan., HLCA (KM, MD).

Savannah Sparrow

Few reports. 1 Dec. (2), LCNP (CMc); 8 Dec., JP (AS); 25 Jan., Chi (Montrose Harbor) (RBa, JG); 29 Jan., Jersey Co (KM).

Fox Sparrow

3 Dec., Woodstock (McHenryCo)(RBa); 21 Dec., Rend L (KM, FB); 21 Dec., Rockford (DW); 28 Dec., Techny (m.ob.); 9 Jan., Sangchris S.P. (DB); 22 Jan., Carl. L (DK).

Song Sparrow

MC: 96, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al). Others: 37, Rend L, 21 Dec. (KM, FB); 16, Sangamon Co, 27 Dec. (DB); 8, Kane Co, 23 Dec. (LH).

Swamp Sparrow

MC: 22, Techny, 28 Dec. (m.ob.); 20, Rend L, 21 Dec. (KM, FB); 16, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al); 6, LCal, 20 Jan. (JL). Others: 2 Jan., JP (PC); 23 Jan. (2), Sangamon Co (DB).

White-throated Sparrow

MC: 44, Chi (Lakeshore Park), 22 Dec. (DJ); 35, Rend L, 21 Dec. (KM, FB); 19, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al); 17, Sangamon Co, 10 Dec. (DB); 15 wintered, Klehm Arboretum (BG). LD: 13 Dec., JP (PC).

White-crowned Sparrow

Low numbers this season. MC: 11, Dundee (Kane Co), 23 Dec. (LH); 7, Techny, 28 Dec. (m.ob.); 4, Winnebago Co, 21 Dec. (DW); 4, UCCA, 4 Jan. (KM, DK); 3, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al); 3, Glenview, 10 Jan. (EW); 2, Spfld, 12 Jan. (DB).

Dark-eyed Junco

MC: 271, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al); 225, Sangamon Co, 12 Jan. (DB); 85, Sand Ridge SF (Mason Co), 20 Jan. (KM); 14, JP, 23 Jan. (PC). "Oregon" form- 10 Dec. & 5 Jan., Sangamon Co (DB); 21 Dec., Rockford (DW).

Lapland Longspur

Widespread in good numbers. MC: 3,000, Piatt Co, 8 Dec. (RC); 100-1,500, Bond Co, Dec.-Jan. (JV, DK); ~600, Colfax (McLean Co), 12-17 Jan. (MR); 400, Sangamon Co, 8 Dec. (DB); 150+, Volo (Lake Co), 15 Feb. (SH); 100+, Winnebago Co, 10 Jan. (DW); 75, Wauk, 7 Dec. (DB,MD,VK); 75, Kane Co, 9 Jan. (DS); ~40, McHenry Co, 26 Jan. (RBa); 25, UCCA, 4 Jan. (KM, DK); 19, LCNP, 1 Dec. (CMc).

Snow Bunting

"Easy to find this year because of snow cover"-DS. MC: 350+, Volo (Lake Co), 15 Feb. (SH); 250, De Kalb Co, 19 Jan. (DB, MD, VK); 250, La Salle Co, 16 Feb. (DS); 100, McHenry Co, 16 Feb. (PSw); ~70, McHenry Co, 11 Jan. (RBa); 27, IBSP, 7 Dec. (AS). Others: 17, Volo (Lake Co), 16 Feb. (JL); 17, LCNP, 7 Dec. (CMc); 6, Winnebago, 10 Dec. (DW); 4, JP, 15 Dec. (PC); 2-3, Colfax (McLean Co), 29 Dec. (MR); 25 Jan., Evanston (EW); 2 Feb., Monticello (Piatt Co)(RC).

Red-winged Blackbird

MC: 500, Sangamon Co, 5 Jan. (DB); 400, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al); 300, Ottawa (La Salle Co), 19 Jan. (JMd); 230, Will Co, 21 Dec. (CA).



Spotted Towhee, female, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, Kane Co. 4 Dec. 1996. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Eastern Meadowlark

MC: 16, Rend L, 21 Dec. (KM, FB); 6, Kane Co, 10 Jan. (LH); 4, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al); 3, Sangamon Co, Jan. (DB); 2, Glenview Naval Air Station, 28 Dec. (EW); 8 Dec., Clin. L (RC).

Yellow-headed Blackbird

21 Dec., Rend L (BD).

Rusty Blackbird

MC: 400+, HLCA, 3 Jan. (KM, MD). Others: 7, Belleville (St Clair Co), 26 Jan. (ASp); 2, Sangamon Co, Jan. (DB); 9 Dec., Durand (Winnebago Co)(BG).

Common Grackle

LD: 19 Jan. (2), Zion (Lake Co)(PSw); 19 Jan., LCNP (CMc); 9 Jan., Spfld (DB).

Brown-headed Cowbird

MC: 450, Spfld, 5 Jan. (DB); 250+, O'Fallon (St Clair Co), 26 Jan. (KM); 59, Homer (Vermilion Co), 10 Jan. (JS). LD: 19 Jan. (2), Zion (Lake Co)(PSw); 4 Jan. (6), McDonough Co (LH).

Purple Finch

Low numbers again, but better than last year. MC: 5, Winnebago Co, 2 Dec. (BG); 3, Spfld, 12 Dec. (DB). Others: 6 Dec., Homer (Vermilion Co)(JS); 19 Dec., Carl. L (DK); 22 Dec., Will Co (CA); 28 Dec., Rockford (DW).

House Finch

MC: 525, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al); 121, Palatine (Cook Co), 27 Feb. (CFs); 80, CBG, 28 Dec. (m.ob.); 64, Spfld, 10 Jan. (DB).

Red Crossbill

MC: 4, IBSP, 8 Feb. (AS); 4, Lyons Woods FP (Lake Co), 15 Feb. (PSw) - same birds as above record?. Others: 2, Allerton Park (Piatt Co), 2 Feb. (RC); 16 Dec., Spfld (DB); 21 Dec., Shirland (Winnebago Co)(DW).

Pine Siskin

Very scarce, perhaps worst winter in recent memory: 21 Dec., Cherry Valley (Winnebago Co)(DW); 1 Jan. (2), Whiteside Co (PP).

American Goldfinch

MC: 1,370, Carl. L, 22 Dec. (DK et al); 585, Jackson Co, 26 Jan. (BD); 44, JP, 5 Jan. (PC); 22, Spfld, 12 Dec. (DB).

Evening Grosbeak

Almost totally absent; early Jan., Jackson Co (LWr).

House Sparrow

MC: 310, Homer (Vermilion Co), 27 Nov (JS); 58, JP, 1 Dec. (PC).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

MC: 91, Mercer Co, 27 Dec. (PP); 53, Spfld, 25 Dec. (DB).

— Robert Danley
2201 Clay St.
Murphysboro, IL 62966

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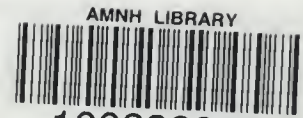
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This photo was taken 27 Nov. 1996 by Joe B. Milosevich.*